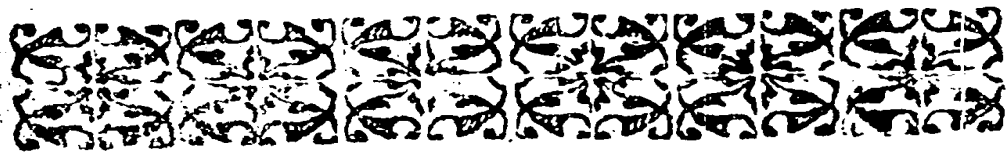


This Heav'n-aspiring Tree's th' Imperiall State,  
Whose Branches, shaken by the Hand of Fate,  
Let fall their rip'ned Monarchs, which appeare  
The same in Urns, as on their Thrones they were ;  
Herodian observ'd, and having tooke  
Their sev'ral Lives, hee weighs them with his Booke ;  
Hee findes them weight ; Then recommends their Story  
To Fame ; Fames Trumpet sounds their Shame ; their Glory.



London printed for Hen. Iamton and are to be sold at  
his Shop in S<sup>t</sup>. Dunstons Church yard Fleetstreet. 1635



HERODIAN  
OF  
ALEXANDRIA  
His  
HISTORIE  
OF TWENTY  
ROMAN Cæsars,  
and EMPERORS  
(of his time.)

Together with the most  
Solemne Deification of  
the Roman Emperors  
and Empresses.

---

*Interpreted out of the Greeke Originall.*

---

LONDON,  
Printed for Henry Tannet, and are to  
bee sold at his shop in St Dunstons  
Churchyard in Fleetstreet. 1635.



THE  
APPROBATION  
OF THIS HISTORIE,  
by divers  
Authors of Eminent  
*place and esteeme.*

PHOTIVS the Patriarke, in the  
99. Chapter of his Greeke  
Bibliotheke.

HERODIAN neither  
swells with Superflui-  
tie, nor omits ought that is  
Necessarie: In a word, hee  
is not inferiour to any, \* for  
all Historicall perfections.

*in ord-  
gais rate  
in ord-  
gais rate  
in ord-  
gais rate*

## The Approbation.

HENRY STEPHAN in his Latine Dedicatorie Epistle to Sir Philip Sidney (of glorious memory) prefixt before Herodians Greeke Historie.

**T**He reading of HERODIAN'S Historicall Worke, will bee a matter of singular profit and pleasure to the \* Courtiers of this Age; for hee represents (as in a glasse) the Emperours of that age, and their Courts; with their Comedies, Tragedies, and Trage-comedies. It is most certaine, that hee was both an Eye-witnesse, and an Eare-witnesse of many things which he writ. No Roman

\* *Notre  
Temperis  
Aulicis.*

Hi-

## The Approbation.

Historie did ever comprize such \* wonderfull changes happening in the Romane Empire, <sup>\* Tam mirabiles vicissitudines.</sup> in so small a circle of time.

POLITIAN in his Epistle to Pope INNOCENT the 8.

**H**aving bethought my selfe which of all the Historians I should translate (according to your H. Command) I resolved at last on HERODIAN that \* excellent <sup>\* Excellens rerum scriptor, & quidam in Palatinis versatus Aulicus, postquam</sup> Writer, who having long continued in the Emperours Court, and being very aged, undertooke to write the History of his Time: which he hath performed, not onely eloquent <sup>compositis, & orationis</sup> but withall most frankly and

A A

faith-



## The Approbation.

faithfully. Your Holinesse  
shall finde in him great varie-  
ty of Persons and Actions,  
many strange things, and fre-  
quent Examples of Fortune,  
*\* vacillantis* \*reeling (as it were) some-  
time one way, sometime  
another: as also wonderfull  
wise Counsellis, accompany-  
ed with unexpected Events;  
and sage Precepts, delivered  
in a Stile full of Majesty and  
Sweetenesse: lastly, a very  
Magazin of Morality; and  
(as it were) a Mirrour of hu-  
mane Fate: whence all men  
may select choice Documents  
conducing to the Weale and  
advancement of a private and  
publick Estate.

M. D.

## The Approbation.

M. D. WHEAR, the publicke  
Professour of History in the  
most noble Vniversity of  
\* Oxford, in his Booke,  
*De Ratione & Methodo legendi  
Historias.* pag. 35.

**H**ERODIAN, a most po-  
lite and judicious Au-  
thor, hath with singular Elo-  
quence described the Acts and  
Lives of many Cæsars and  
Emperours.

*\* Quam  
semper a-  
maram,  
semper ho-  
noratam (sic  
Dixi volui (sic)  
habebo.*

A 5

THE



## THE NAMES OF

the Romane *Cæsars* and

\* Emperours, whose Acts  
and Lives are recorded  
by HERODIAN.

no Dom. 163.

1. *Arcus Aurelius* } The two  
\* *Antoninus*, } first Consorts  
*ius Verus* his son } in the Ro-  
n law. } man Empire

2. \* *Commodus*.

3. \* *Pertinax*.

4. *Julian*.

5.

*iger*, } in } *Asia*, }  
*everus*, } } *Italy*, } at once.  
*binus*. } } *Britanie*, }

6. *Septimius* }  
7. *Maximus* }  
8. *M. Aurelius* }  
9. *Lucius* }  
10. *Septimius* }  
11. *Maximus* }  
12. *M. Aurelius* }  
13. *Lucius* }  
14. *Septimius* }  
15. *Maximus* }  
16. *M. Aurelius* }  
17. *Lucius* }  
18. *Septimius* }  
19. *Maximus* }  
20. *M. Aurelius* }  
21. *Lucius* }  
22. *Septimius* }  
23. *Maximus* }  
24. *M. Aurelius* }  
25. *Lucius* }  
26. *Septimius* }  
27. *Maximus* }  
28. *M. Aurelius* }  
29. *Lucius* }  
30. *Septimius* }  
31. *Maximus* }  
32. *M. Aurelius* }  
33. *Lucius* }  
34. *Septimius* }  
35. *Maximus* }  
36. *M. Aurelius* }  
37. *Lucius* }  
38. *Septimius* }  
39. *Maximus* }  
40. *M. Aurelius* }  
41. *Lucius* }  
42. *Septimius* }  
43. *Maximus* }  
44. *M. Aurelius* }  
45. *Lucius* }  
46. *Septimius* }  
47. *Maximus* }  
48. *M. Aurelius* }  
49. *Lucius* }  
50. *Septimius* }  
51. *Maximus* }  
52. *M. Aurelius* }  
53. *Lucius* }  
54. *Septimius* }  
55. *Maximus* }  
56. *M. Aurelius* }  
57. *Lucius* }  
58. *Septimius* }  
59. *Maximus* }  
60. *M. Aurelius* }  
61. *Lucius* }  
62. *Septimius* }  
63. *Maximus* }  
64. *M. Aurelius* }  
65. *Lucius* }  
66. *Septimius* }  
67. *Maximus* }  
68. *M. Aurelius* }  
69. *Lucius* }  
70. *Septimius* }  
71. *Maximus* }  
72. *M. Aurelius* }  
73. *Lucius* }  
74. *Septimius* }  
75. *Maximus* }  
76. *M. Aurelius* }  
77. *Lucius* }  
78. *Septimius* }  
79. *Maximus* }  
80. *M. Aurelius* }  
81. *Lucius* }  
82. *Septimius* }  
83. *Maximus* }  
84. *M. Aurelius* }  
85. *Lucius* }  
86. *Septimius* }  
87. *Maximus* }  
88. *M. Aurelius* }  
89. *Lucius* }  
90. *Septimius* }  
91. *Maximus* }  
92. *M. Aurelius* }  
93. *Lucius* }  
94. *Septimius* }  
95. *Maximus* }  
96. *M. Aurelius* }  
97. *Lucius* }  
98. *Septimius* }  
99. *Maximus* }  
100. *M. Aurelius* }

\* Their gold, silver, and copper Coins, (with their Images and Inscriptions) are in the custody of that noble Anti-quary Sir R.C. \* There is yet extant at Rome a stately Colunne erected by him. In his time Bri-taine received the Christian Faith. Bede Eccl. Hist. l. x. \* His naked Statue (as hee playd the Gladi-ator) is ex-tant at Rome in the Farnesian Palace. See the Transumpt of it in M. G.



## THE NAMES OF the Romane *Cæsars* and

\* Emperours, whose Acts  
and Lives are recorded  
by HERODIAN.

Anno Dom. 163.

**M** *Arcus Aurelius* } The two  
\* *Antoninus*, } first Cōsorts  
*Læcius Verus* his son } in the Ro-  
in law. } man Empire

182. \* *Commodus*.

195. \* *Pertinax*.

195. *Julian*.

196.

*Niger*, } *Asia*, }  
\* *Severus*, } in } *Italy*, } at once.  
*Albinus*. } } *Britanie*, }

*Sandy's Journall*, pag. 271. \* So called because hee pertinaciously refused to accept the Empire offered him by the Senate. *Xii. hinc*.  
\* His Triumphall Arch is yet extant at *Rom*. No marvell it three stood for the Empire; for (once) there were thirty Princes elected one time, by severall Armies (*Zenobia* was one of them.) *Vid Bed.*  
At *Rep. l. 6. c. 5. & P. Mexia in Gaillon*.

\* Their gold, silver, and copper Coin, (with their Images and Inscriptions) are in the custody of that noble Antiquary Sir R.C.  
\* There is yet extant at *Rome* a stately Colunne erected by him. In his time *Brisaine* received the Christian Faith. *Beda Eccl. Hist. l. 1.*  
\* His naked Statue (as hee playd the *Gla-dia. or*) is extant at *Rome* in the *Farnesian* Palace. See the *Tranſumpt* of it in M. G.

*Antio-*

## The Names, &c.

*Antoninus*, } Brothers and  
*Geta*, } Colleagues.

219. *Macrinus*, and  
*Diadumenianus* Caesar (his  
Sonne.)

220. *Antoninus*, or rather *Pseud-*  
*Antoninus*

224. *Alexander*.

*Maximinus*.

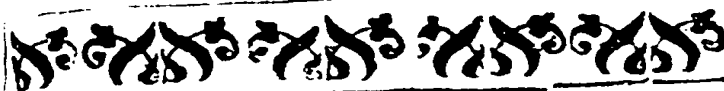
237. *Quartinus*.  
*Gordian* the Father.  
*Gordian* the Sonne.

239. *Maximus*, } Colleagues.  
\* *Albinus*,

241. *Gordian*, Nephew to the El-  
der *Gordian*.

## HERO-

\* In the  
Greece, *Bal-*  
*binus* (sed in  
Fastu Siculo  
& *Capitolinus*,  
*Albinus*.)



## HERODIAN HIS IMPERIAL HISTORIE.

*The first Booke.*

### The Contents.

**H**erodian's *Historicall* faith. The  
*rare and choice Occurrents* here  
recorded. *A briefe Character* of the  
*Emperors insuing. A Summary* of the  
*Emperor Marcus his Life and Reigne.*  
*The education of Prince Commodus.*  
*How Marcus bestowed his Daughters.*  
*His Princely Qualities.* Herodian a  
great *Statesman.* Marcus misdoubts  
*Commodus.* His speech on his death-  
bed. *Hee dies and is generally lament-*  
*ed.* *Commodus succeeds.* His speech  
to the *Army.* His bad *Courtiers.* *Pom-*  
*peianus* a grave *Counciller.* *Romane*  
*Triumphs.* *Commodus passeth to*  
B Rome.

*Rome. The Romanes dearely affect him. His Description. His Entrie into Rome. Perennius a Favourite. Lucilla, Commodus his Sister, conspires against him. Perennius his Treason. Jupiters Festivall. Romane Priests honoured. Perennius discovered and beheaded. Maternus rebells: his Plot detected. The Mother of the Gods: her Holiday; and History. The strange river that made men geld themselves. A Plague and Famine at Rome. Cleander a Favourite. His Treason. He is generally hated. He armes the Souldiers against the Commons. Fadilla detects him. He is beheaded. Commodus his Cruelty and Credulity. Strange Prodigies. Rome fired. Commodus debauched and infatuated. Liberty, a Goddesse. Commodus, an excellent Archer. Hee fights naked with Fencers before all the People. New-yeares-gifts. New-years-tide solemnly kept. Marcia, Commodus his chiefe Concubine. Phile-Commodus. Marcia and others conspire Commodus Death. Hee is poyson'd and strangled.*

## HERODIAN'S Induction.

**O**F those which have hitherto bestowed their paines in compiling Historie, and recording the Acts of ancient Time, divers affecting the reputation of Learning, and coveting by wel-tuned language to eternize their Fame (lest by silence they should bee lost among the Vulgar) have beene more carefull to gild and embosse their Discourse, than to mine and search out the Truth: supposing (belike) though they have delivered many fabulous Narrations of things done so long since, they could not easily bee controlled; and yet nevertheless, their neat and spruce Compositions should bee highly applauded.

Passionate  
Historians  
censured.

Others againe, transported with spleene against some particular People, or with hatred against Tyrants; or else too much addicted to glorifie Princes, Cities, and privat persons, have not perfectly delineated the Image of Truth.

Herodians  
Historicall  
Faith.

ἡ μετὰ πλείονος ἀγνοίας ἀκριβείας.

For my owne part, I have here undertaken to write such a History as is not grounded on vulgar Aires, and vaine Noy-  
ses, or on the uncertaine Credit of forraigne Relations; but of such recent Occurrences as I have \* faithfully and industriously collected, and cannot bee unknowne to the moderne Readers: and I doubt not, but the intelligence of so many rare and memorable Accidents, which have fallen out in so short a time, will be both usefull and delightful to After-ages. For if wee reckon

reckon from *Augustus*, who reduced the State of the Romane Common-wealth to a Monarchy, wee shall not finde in all those two hundred yeares (for thereabouts it is to *Marcus* the Emperours Raigne) either such change-full Successions in the Empire, or such various changes and events of civill and forraigne Warres, or so many Cities of our owne and of the Barbarians conquered: beside earthquakes and pestilences, and the lives of Princes and Tyrants so strange and uncouth, that all the Records of Antiquity can hardly parallel: some whereof injoyed their Principality for a longer time, others but a very small while; yea, many of them having scarce accepted the Imperiall Title, the very same day they were elected,

The rare  
and choice  
Occurrences  
here recorded.

were likewise rejected, and deposed from their Imperialitie. Whereupon, the Citie of Rome having in 60 yeares more Emperors than for the proportion of the time, there hapned many variable and admirable Occurrents: for those Princes which were of riper yeares, and could manage their Affaires with Wisedome and Iudgement, did governe themselves and their People with great honour; but the younger sort of them, for want of Education and Experience, ran many wilde courses. Thus disparitie of Yeares and Conditions, was accompanied with diversity of Manners and Actions. The particulars whereof, exactly observing the Concurrence of the severall Times and Princes, we come now to specifye.

A little  
character  
of the Em-  
perors en-  
suing.

A

*A Summary of Marcus  
his Life and Reigne.*



He Emperour <sup>MARCUS</sup> had many Daughters, and but two Sonnes; whereof the younger (called *Versimus*) dyed in his childhood; the other, (named *Commodus*) he was very sollicitous to bring up well: to which purpose, he sent farre and neere for many noble Philosophers, giving them great pensions to traine him up in vertue and learning. His Daughters, as soone as they were marriageable, hee bestowed on the best men hee could finde among the Senators: For in the choice of his Sonne-in-lawes, hee had not so much respect to ancient Nobilitie or great wealth, as to their Excellence in all Mo-

<sup>Aurelius.</sup>

The educa-  
tion of  
Prince  
*Commodus.*

The Em-  
perors pru-  
dent choice  
of his Sonne  
in lawe.

B 4

tall

His Princely  
qualities

\* δεξιόμε-  
νος

rall and intellectuall Endowments : rightly esteeming the Goods of the Minde to be the only permanent and durable Riches. Hee was indued with all Princely vertues, and of such rare and exquisite knowledge in Antiquities, that hee was not inferiour to any of the Greekes or Romanes in that kinde ; witness his many wise Speeches and Writings yet extant. He was also a Prince of so sweet a temper, and debonaire behaviour towards all men, that he would give\* his hand to every one that came to him, commanding his Guard to put backe none that came to see him. In a word, he was the onely Emperour that shewed himselfe a wise man, not onely in Words or Edicts, but in Gravity and Continencie of life. Whereby it came to passe, that

that many famous Men for Wisedome and Learning flourisht in his time. For Men are very apt to imitate their Princes, for the most part. Now whatsoever he did in peace or warre remarkable, or attempted against the Northerne or Easterne Barbarians, is already committed to writing by many excellent learned Men. But those Occurrences, which all my time (after *Marcus* decease) I either saw or heard of (most of which I knew experimentally, in regard I bore diverse \* high and honourable offices in the State) it is now my Taske to relate.

*Marcus* being now weakened with Age, and worne out and spent with incessant Toyle and Care, suddenly fell (while hee was in \* *Pannonia*) into a grievous disease. When he saw him-

\* εν βασιλει-  
καις η δα-  
μοσιαις  
εξουσιαις.  
Herodian  
an Officer  
of State.

\* Now Au-  
stria and  
Hungaria.



*Marcus*  
mildoubts  
his sonne  
*Commodus.*  
\* About 18.

selfe past recovery, hee was fore  
afrayd, lest his sonne, who was  
then but \* young, should in the  
first heat of youth, through his  
uncontrollable Imperiall power  
(when hee was gone) abandon  
good arts and exercises, and be-  
take himselfe to drunkennes and  
intemperance: for Youth is too  
“ forward to shake off the yoke  
“ of Discipline, and devote it  
“ selfe to the bewitching blan-  
“ dishments of sensual\* delights.  
Being also a man of \* high wise-  
dome, and profound judgement,  
he was much terrifyed at the re-  
membrance of many Princes,  
which came to their sovereignty  
when they were yong & youth-  
full: as, of *Dionysius* the *Sicilian*  
Tyrant, who was such an Epi-  
cure in his Diet and manner of  
living, that hee richly rewar-  
ded them that could invent any  
new

\* Seneca  
calls Sensi-  
lity these  
veraigne  
good of  
Beasts.  
Ep. 93.  
\* *Proculus*

new kinde of pleasure: as also  
of *Alexanders* Successors, which  
were so exorbitant and irregu-  
lar in their Governement, that  
they were a great blemish and  
dishonour to the Empire. For  
\* *Ptolomey* so shamefully excee-  
ded the boundes of modesty,  
that contrary to the lawes of the  
*Macedons*, and all the *Greekes*,  
hee made love to his owne Si-  
ster. And *Antigonus*, who would  
needes personate *Bacchus*; in  
stead of the *Macedonian* Coronet  
and Diadem, did usually weare  
a Wreath of Ivie, and carry a  
\* speare drest with green boughs  
in stead of a Scepter. The good  
Emperour was also much trou-  
bled with the late Examples of  
\* *Nero*, who slew his owne mo-  
ther, and made himselfe the  
scotte of the Vulgar; and of *De-*  
*mitrian*, who was a most horri-  
ble

\* See *Iustia*  
*lib. 24.*

\* *Thyssa*

\* In *hien*  
the *of the*  
as *Time*  
faded

ble cruell Monster. Revolving therefore in his minde, these Images of Tyranny, hee was grievously tossed twixt Hope and Feare. Moreover, he much distrusted the bordering *German* Nation, which (yet) he had not wholly at his Devotion, but partly had Confederated, partly Conquered: whereof many (notwithstanding) had withdrawn themselves from his Obedience, and were onely held in awe with the presence of the Prince. He was therefore in great doubt, lest despising his sonnes Minority, they would presently fall to rebellion; it being the usuall guise of Barbarians, to raise Tumults upon the least Occasion. In these perplexities, hee commands his Kinsmen and principall Lords that werethere, to come unto him; who being assem-

assembled, hee sets the young Prince before them, and lifting up himself a little on his Couch, makes this Speech unto them.

### The Emperour *Marcus* his Speech on his Death-bed.

**I**T is no mervell, if you bemoane  
and lament my present Case; for  
men are led by Nature, to compas-  
ionate their Kinsmens miseries: and  
these dolefull things which we see be-  
fore our eyes, doe most excite our  
commiseration. But betweene you <sup>presentis</sup>  
and me there is a more speciall bond: <sup>mover po-</sup>  
<sup>tentiam</sup>  
for knowing how dearly I have lo-  
ved and respected you, I may justly  
challenge your love againe. And now  
is the fittest \* season for me to judge, \* *καὶ ποῶς εὖ*  
whether I have deservedly honored *καὶ ποῶς*.  
you thus long, and taken all occasions  
to preferre you; and for you to shew  
your selves gratefull and mindefull  
of

of those Innoblements. You see here my sonne (your Pupill) is now entering the Aprill of his Age; and withall, into such broken Seas, and jurgling Waves of businesse, that if hee have not good Pilots, hee may soone, by mis-governement, steere a wrong course, and make shipwracke of his Fortunes. Be you therefore as so many Fathers unto him, by your grave Counsells and Instructions.

“ For no Treasure in the World can  
 “ so assure a Prince, nor the strong-  
 “ est Guard so well preserve him as  
 “ the Good-will and love of his Sub-  
 “ jects. The way to raigne long  
 “ and securely, is not to purchase  
 “ Feare by Cruelty, but to winne  
 “ Love by Mildnesse and Clemencie. For they are the best servants  
 “ to their Sovereaigne, and furthest  
 “ from Icalousie and Flatterie, not  
 “ which are compelled by necessity, but  
 “ which are gently led by their owne  
 “ loving

—peragit  
 tranquillitas  
 potestas  
 Quod vio-  
 lenta nequit.

loving inclinations, nor will they ever stand out in any thing hee shall require of them, unlesse they bee unjustly and violently oppressed. And it is a poynt of great difficulty, for a Prince, that may live as licentious as he list, to moderate himselfe, and bridle his owne appetite. Wherefore if you by your prudent Admonitions shall plant in him a care to live well, and often remember him of what he hath now heard, you shall render him a worthy Prince both to your selves, and others; and you shall (thereby) propagate my memory; which this only way you may make immortall.

No sooner had MARCVS ended his Speech, but hee swooned, and became speechlesse; being so sicke and heart-sunke, that hee fell backe into his bed. Which lamentable sight, so moved all there present, that many  
 of

*Marcus dies*

*\* April. 17.*

*An. Dom.*

*181.*

*Ætat. 39.*

And is generally  
be-  
wayled.

of them cryed out, as they were distracted. But hee lived onely a day and a night longer, and then \* deceased: leaving to the present Age, an infinite love to his Majestie, and to the future, an everlasting memoriall of his Vertue. As soone as his death was made knowne, it is incredible what weeping and wailing there was in the Armie, and among all the Communalty: yea there was no nation throughout the Romane Empire, but with many teares receiv'd the message, and deplor'd their incomparable losse in him: some calling him their good Father; others, their good Emperour: some their most valorous Commander; Others, their vertuous and temperate Prince. Nor indeed, were any of them deceived in him. Some few dayes after

ter the celebration of his Funerall, it was thought fit by the Lords, to present the young Prince to the Army, that hee might speak to them, and (as the manner of new Emperors was) bestow a Largeesse of money upon them, to presse them (as it were) to his Love and Service. Proclamation therfore was presently made, that all the Army should assemble together: which done, *Commodus* comes foorth, and having sacrificed to the Gods, ascends a high Throne erected in the midst of the camp; where, being accompanied with his Fathers Kinsmen and Counsellours, which were very many, and excellent learned men, hee speakes to this effect.

*Commodus  
succeeds.*

*Commo-*

Commodus his Speech to  
the Army.

**I** Make no doubt, but both you and I are alike sorrowfull for our late Calamitie; and that you are no lesse grieved than my selfe. In my Fathers time, I never bore my selfe among you as your Superiour: for he loved us all, as if we had been all one; and did more willingly call me Fellow-souldier, than Sonne: esteeming this, to note a participation of Nature; that, of Valour: yea, when I was an Infant, he would oft carry me in his armes, and deliver me into your hands, recommending mee (as it were) to your tutelage and fidelity. I am in good hope therefore of all your loves, seeing the elder sort of you may repute me for your foster-child, and my equalls I may well terme my Schoolefellows in armes;

so

so dearely did my Father love us all, as if wee had beene but one; being carefull to traine us up in all kind of Vertuous exercises. And now after him, hath Fortune<sup>\*</sup> made me your Prince, not by faction (as some of my Predecessors) nor by usurpation. For I onely was borne and bred in the Court, and as soone as I came into the world, was received not into a private cradle, but vested in Imperiall purple: so that at the same instant, the Sunne saw me a Man and a Prince. Which, if you duely consider, you will love me not as a Dative, but a Native Emperour. And now that my Father is translated to Heaven, into the Society and<sup>\*</sup> Consistory of the<sup>\*</sup> Gods; the Rule of the World, and care of humane affaires, is devolved unto Vs: which, what powerfull effects, or good successe it may produce, rests wholly in you. For if you make a brave end of the Warre, and extend  
the

<sup>\*</sup> The Roman Emperours kept the Image of Fortune in their chambers with great veneration.

<sup>\*</sup> Hinc Porphyrogeniti

<sup>\*</sup> sovereigns.

*the Roman Empire to the Ocean, you shall purchase immortall honour, and crowne the Memory of our common Father; who (as you ought firmly to believe) both heares what we say, and sees what we doe. How happy then are wee, that shall have such a Witnesse of our worthy Acts. And whereas the Honourable Services which you performed hitherto, with such prosperous successe, may bee attributed to his Providence and Governance; your magnanimous Achievements under mee your Young Prince, will purchase you a peculiar Trophie, and most noble Testimony of Loyalty and Valour. Thus shall you procure to my tender Age a glorious esteeme, by your valiant Exploits; and the Barbarians being curb'd in the beginning of our Reigne, shall for the present not dare to insult, in contempt of our Minoritie; and being terrifyed with their*

*their owne harmes, shall ever hereafter stand in awe of Vs.*

Having thus sayd, and assured the Souldiers by a Magnificent Donative of Mony, he returned to his Palace. For a short time, he was in all thing directed by his Fathers Friends, who daily assisted him with their prudent Counsels, permitting him only so much recreation, as was conducive to his health. But after a while, divers of his \* Court winding themselves into favour, sought by all means possible to corrupt this hopefull young Prince. These fawning Parasites, placing their felicitie in Belly-cheere, \* and brutish lusts, did estoones put him in minde of the Delices of Rome, sometime recounting to him what brave things were there to bee scene

\* *πῖνες ἄφ' ἐμῆς αὐλῆς.*

Bad Courtiers.

\* *In Ventre & Ventre.*

scene and heard; otherwhile, extolling the great plenty and abundance of all things there. Further, they shewed how incommodious it was, to reside on the bankes of \* *Ister*, which were both barren & unfruitfull, and perpetually subject to Cold and Raine. Will your Majesty (sayd they) still drinke such frozen and muddy waters; while others enjoy the warme Bathes, coole Rivers, and dainty Aire of *Italy*? With these, and the like sugred Allegatives, they inflam'd the young Emperor with the love of Pleasures. Whereupon calling his Councell together, he told them he had a great desire to see his Native Countrey: but being loth to shew the Reason of that sudden resolution, hee said hee was afraid, lest some of the chiefe Nobles should

\*The greatest River (after *Nilus*) in all the Roman Empire *Au. Gel.* (i.e. *Salt.*)

should seize the Imperial Palace at *Rome*, which being a strong Castle, he might easily of the \* *Graine-bands* and others, raise \* *ἐπὶ τῶν νεανίων* a great Armie, and proclaime himselfe Emperour. They hearing him alledge these Unbrages, in great feare and amazement lookt on the earth, and knew not what to say. at last, *Pompeianus* the most ancient of all, who might best speake, because of his affinity, having married *Commodus* eldest sister, said.

*pompeianus*  
a grave  
Statesman.

#### *Pompeianus* his Speech.

**M**Y deare Sovereigne, it is no marvell if you long to see your Countrey: for there is in all of us a vehement desire to be at home; but yet we checke it notwithstanding, because the Busines in hand doth much more import us: these domestick contentments may with more security hereaf-

\* *Vbi Imperator, ibi Roma.*

\* In the  
Romane  
Triumphs,  
The Cap-  
tives went  
before the  
triumphant  
Charriot.  
*V. d. S. Amb.  
Scr. 62. de  
Pentecoste.*

ter be injoyed. As for \* Rome, it is there, where the Emperour is. But if wee abruptly breake off the Warre, it will be both dishonorable and dangerous: for so we shall animate the Barbarians, who may thinke that we dismarched for feare of them, rather than any other respect. Now if your Imperiall Majesty will proccede in your Conquests, and extend this North part of your Empire unto the Ocean, in what a glorious Triumph may you enter the City, with the chained and captived Kings and Princes of the Barbarians \* before you? For thus the Romanes in ancient Heroicall times, attayned so great renowne. Feare not therefore any domesticke Vsurpers: For the prime Senators are here with you, and all the Military Forces are here ready to defend you. Besides, here is all the Imperiall Treasure. Lastly, the memory of your Father hath con-

firm'd

firm'd to you, the eternall Love and Loyaltie of all Estates.

This strong Disswasive of Pompeianus, did (for a while) somewhat abate the edge of the young Emperour, who revering his words, and having nothing to reply with his Honour, dismiss the Lords, saying, hee would better consider of it. But his Courtiers still pressing him with continuall importunity, hee advis'd no further with his Councell, but instantly sent Letters to Rome, and commanded all to prepare for the Journey, giving order to certaine Troopes to guard the Banks of Ister, and keepe off the Barbarians Incursions. They having received their Charge, did soon subdue many of them; and others, by rewards they wonne

C

unto



\*τὸ βαρβα-  
ρον φιλο-  
χρήματον.

unto them: which they might easily doe: for the Barbarians being naturally greedy of \*cash; and not caring what dangerous Adventures they undertooke, liv'd altogether by spoyling and foraging; or by selling Peace at a deare rate: which *Commodus* well knowing, and having a huge Masse of Treasure; to the end to leave all things in security, gave them whatsoever they demanded.

As soone as it was proclaymed through the Army, that they must all goe home, there was a mighty hurly-burly in the Campe, every man desiring to quit the Enemies Countrey, and to taste the Delights of the Citie. And when it was certainly knowne at *Rome*, that the *Prince* would come, all the *Romane* People were ravisht with

Ioy,

Ioy, every one conceiving excellent hopes of their young Emperour, and firmly beleeving hee would tread in his Fathers steps.

He presently tooke his Journey with high speed, posting in youthfull bravery in his Chariot through every Citie, (as he passed) being Royally received, and entertained, with great Magnificence, and generall Applause: But when he drew neer to *Rome*, all the *Romane* Peers and Commons (every one striving to be formost) went out to meet him with \* Laurels in their hands, and all kind of Flowers, (as the Season afforded) to welcome their Noble young *PRINCE*: whom (in truth) they loved most dearly and cordially; in regard hee was borne and bred among

*Commodus*  
posted to  
Rome.

\* Δαφνίσ-  
τοι.

The Ro-  
mans dear-  
ly affect  
him.

them, being of the most No-  
ble and Imperiall Blood, from  
three descents. For by his Fa-  
ther, hee was descended from  
the most Honourable Senators:  
and his Mother *Faustina*, the  
Empresse, daughter to *Antonius*  
*Pius*, and Neece (by the Mo-  
thers side) to the Emperour  
*Adrian*, derived his Pedegree  
from *Trajan* her Great Grand-  
father. Thus Nobly descended  
was *Commodus*, who was not  
only \* conspicuous for his  
youthfull Prime, but also for  
his lovely Feature; being of a  
fine Constitution of body, of  
an amiable and Majestique Pre-  
sence, bright and \* sparkling  
Eyes, yellow and curled Locks,  
insomuch, that when he walked  
in the Sunne, his Haire would  
glister like Flames of Fire,  
which made many suppose it  
was

\* αἰγιόδη-  
τος.

His De-  
scription.

\* πυρίωδεις

was powdred with Gold. O-  
thers conceited, it was a signe  
of some divine Excellence,  
and that hee had that glistering  
Lustre (on his head) from his  
birth. Moreover the silken  
downe of his Cheekes began  
to blossome, and bud forth like  
Roses in the Spring. This hope-  
full and Illustrious Emperour  
did the Romanes congratulate  
with passing hearty and affecti-  
onate Acclamations, strowing  
all the way before him with  
Flowers and Garlands. Having  
made his entry into the Citie,  
hee went first to the Temple of  
*Insiter*, and then to the Fanes of  
the other Gods: Lastly, having  
solemnly thanked the Senators  
and Pretorian souldiers, for  
their singular fidelity, hee repo-  
sed himselfe in the \* Imperiall  
Palace.

His Entrie  
into Rome.

\* Built on  
Mount Pa-  
latine, o-  
therwise  
called Pa-  
latium. See  
Aur. Vi-  
tor. de O-  
rig. Gent.  
R. m.

*Perennis* a  
Favourite.

For some few yeares hee gave all due honour and regard to his fathers friends, being content to bee rul'd by them in all matters of weight. But afterwards committing the Governement of the Empire to others, hee made *Perennis* an Italian (a good Souldier) Captaine of the Pretorian Bands: who suffering the young Emperour to follow his Pleasures, and wallow in all manner of sensuality, undertooke all the Affaires of the Empire, and (in effect) ruled alone. The man was insatiably covetous, for being never content with what he had, hee still gaped for more. Yea, it was his daily practice to calumniate the ancient Counsellours of the Emperours Father, and to bring within compasse of Misprision, the most Wealthy and Noble Per-

Persons, that the young Prince being by false feares and feigned surmises induced to put them to death, their Goods and Estates might be confiscate to his use. Yet for a while, was the Prince more temperable, out of respect to his Fathers memory, and his Counsellours Gravitie: but by the malignity of Fortune, that good Temper and Disposition was soone altered and perverted. The occasion was this.

*Lucilla*, *Commodus* eldest Sister, *Lucilla*,  
was first wedded to *Lucius Ver-* *Commodus*  
*rus*, whom *Marcus* had associ- his Sister.  
ated in the Imperiall Governement, having obliged him in the strongest bond of love, by bestowing his Daughter upon him. After *Lucius* decease, she still retayning her former State and Dignity, was by her Father affianced to *Pompeianus*, and

permitted by *Commodus* to enjoy the same Honours. For as an Empresse she had her Chaire of State erected on the Theater, and Fire likewise (after the usual manner) carryed before her. But when *Commodus* had married *Crispina*, who then as the PRINCE's Wife, was to have precedence, *Lucilla* stormed at it, and interpreting the others Honour to be her Disgrace, yet durst not impart her Designe (of surprizing the Empire) to her husband *Pompeianus*, because shee knew hee loved *Commodus* intirely: Howbeit, opening her mind to a Noble yong Gallant, called *Quadratus*, with whom shee was suspected to play the Adulteresse, she grievously complained to him of the indignity, and at last perswaded him to such a Course, as was pernicious

*Crispina* the  
Empresse.

*Lucilla* and  
others con-  
spire against  
her.

ous to himsele, and all the Senatours. For among others of the Nobility which were of that Conspiracie, there was one *Quintianus* a bold and desperate youth, whom he inveagled, and suborned to watch some fit opportunity to kill *Commodus* with a \* Stiletto (which hee might \* by the way  
hide in his bosome) which done, he undertooke to salve the matter with Money.

Shortly after, *Quintianus* standing in a blinde corner in the Entrie to the Amphitheater, as *Commodus* passed by, offered to stab him; proclayming aloud, that the Senate sent him that: which as soone as he had spoken, intending to follow his thrust, hee was seized by the Guard, and received condigne punishment for his Madnesse: the Emperours Safetie beeing

The Con-  
spiracie de-  
tected.

wrought by his owne discovery. This was the prime and maine Ground of the Princes hate against the Nobility. For his Mind was so deeply wounded with those words, that hee tooke them all for his capitall Enemies, and could never forget the speech of the youth which assailed him.

*Perennius* laying hold of this occasion, counselled him to root out all the chiefe Nobles and Gallants, whose Estates being confiscate and given him, hee suddenly grew to infinit wealth. For himselfe sitting as Iudge, *Commodus* his owne Sister, and all that had a hand in that Conspiracie, or were but lightly suspected for it, were put to death.

Thus *Perennius* having made away those whom the Emperor feared

The Con-  
spirators  
executed.

feared (which indeed did beare a Paternall Affection to him) tooke him into his owne tuition: and now being in the height of Authority, hee cast about how to usurpe the Empire: to which end, hee perswaded *Commodus*, that his Sonnes (which were (yet) but youths) might be made Commanders of the Imperiall Forces in \* *Illyria*. Whereupon he provides a mighty masse of Treasure to winne the good wills of the Pretorian Souldiers. The Sonnes also secretly levied great numbers of Souldiers, that as soone as their Father had slaine *Commodus*, they might invade the Princesdome.

*Perennius*  
his treason.

\* After cal-  
led *Dalma-*  
*tia*, now  
*Slavonia*.

This Treason was strangely detected in this manner.

The Romans use to celebrate a sacred Agon or Pageant in honour of *Iupiter Capitolinus*, to which

The Roy-  
all Festivall  
of *Iupiter*.

which there is extraordinary resort of people, as is usuall at the Solemnities of that royall Citie. Now it is the custome for the Emperour also to bee there present and President, together with the Priests, which yearly waite in their courses. The Emperour being set in his Throne to heare those famous Actors, and the Theater full of spectators (which with singular decency \* were seated according to their Degrees) before any thing was said or acted on the Stage, suddenly there starts out one, in a Philosophers habit, with a staffe in his hand, and a Scrip on his shoulder, (halfe naked) who running to the midd of the Stage, stood still, and beckening with his hand for silence, said; *This, O Commodus, is no time for Sports, shewes,*

\* *ἱερωσύνη*  
\* *ἱεραὶ*

Honour of  
Romane  
Priests.

\* *ἡ περὶ τῶν  
ἐκκλησιῶν*

Perennius  
discovered.

*Shewes, or Festivals : Perennius his Sword hangs over your Head, and if you doe not speedily avoid the present danger, you are undone : That same Man there hath rayssed both Men and Money against you, and his Sonnes likewise sollicite the Illyrian Armie : whom if you doe not instantly prevent, you are a dead man.*

The fellow having thus said, whether moved thereto by some Divine Instinct; or to purchase himselfe a Name (being an obscure Plebeian) or because hee hoped to attaine some great Reward of the Prince for his discovery, certainly *Commodus* was mightily astonisht. Others, though they beleevved it might be true; yet they seemed not to credit it. *Perennius* commands him to bee apprehended, and as a seditious franticke

ticke to bee burned. Thus suffered hee for his mis-timed boldnesse. Howbeit, divers that made semblance to regard the Emperours safetie, and bore *Perennius* upon the spleene, for his intolerable haughty and disdainfull carriage, taking this occasion, spared not to accuse him: in so much, that *Commodus* (thereby) evaded mischief, and *Perennius* with his children smarted for it. Soone after there came \* Souldiers unknowne to *Perennius* sonne, and brought coines stamped with his Image, which they secretly shewed to *Commodus*, (unawares to *Perennius* though hee were Praefect :) and detected all the Treason: for which service they were exceeding richly rewarded. Whereupon the next night the Emperour sent for *Perennius*

\* They were British Souldiers (as our writers say)

*Perennius* his head, who little *Perennius* dreamt hee was discovered. He beheaded. sent also Posts to his sonne; which by their speed prevented the rumours of what was done at Rome, and delivered to him very loving Letters from the Emperour, requiring him to hasten forthwith to Rome, for his extraordinary advancement. The messengers also told him it was his Fathers desire hee should come; but writ not himselfe, because hee knew the Emperours Letters were sufficient. The young man utterly ignorant of his Fathers disaster, or of the plot against himselfe, believed this to bee true; and though he were much troubled that his designs were thus interrupted, yet relying on his Fathers puissance, (whom hee thought to bee safe enough) hee set

set forward on his journey, and as soone as hee arrived in *Italy*, hee was slaine by the Emperors appoyntment. This was the end of them.

Then *Commodus* made two Pretorian Præfects, supposing it not safe, to delegate so great power to any one, which being divided betwixt two, might bee the weaker and lesse dangerous. But ere long another treason broke out against him in this manner.

*Maternus a  
Rebell.*

There was one *Maternus* a Souldier, that had committed many villanous outrages: whereupon forsaking the camp, hee associated divers Renegadoes like himselfe, and quickly rallied together a great Rabble of Roarers; wasting and spoyling Villages and Fields. Having got much booty, there resorted

sorted to him a farre greater number of Rogues, whom hee promised great rewards; and having made them Sharers with him, hee was so followed, that now they seemed not to be a packe of Theeves, but an Host of men, or a full Armie. For they tooke great Cities, and breaking up Prisons every where, set all Prisoners and Malefactors at liberty; which all turned Souldiers, in hope of Pillage and Impunity. Thus did they ramble over all *Gallia*, and *Spaine*, sacking and burning all the great Cities they tooke.

When *Commodus* heard this, hee sent to the Vicegerents and Governours of those Countries, very sharpe and minatory Letters, charging them with base cowardlinesse, and commanding them to levie an Armie



*Maternus  
aspires to  
Sovereign-  
ty.*

mie against them. Which when those Free-booters understood, thinking those Countries but *hollow ground* for them, they disperst themselves, and flinking thorow unused By-ways, made their Rendezvous in *Italy*: where *Maternus* began now to looke big, and take more upon him: consulting with his companions, how hee might rise to bee a King. For seeing his former adventures succeeded beyond his hopes, he resolved to undertake some gallant Attempt; or (since hee had runne so great a hazard) not to die a vile and dishonourable Death. But considering withall, that hee had not Forces sufficient to give battle to *Commodus*, who was (yet) beloved of the Roman people; he resolved to try by a cunning sleight how

how the Prætorian Band stood affected to him. And this was <sup>*Maternus*</sup> his plot. his plot. In the beginning of the spring, the Romans celebrate a great Anniversary Festivall to the \* Mother of the \* <sup>*Cybele.*</sup> gods, in whose honour they likewise set forth a stately shew: at what time, all the most sumptuous and precious stuffe of the Citizens, and the choicest Jewels and Singularities of the Emperors, are solemnly caried before the Image of the Goddesse; all men having liberty to revel and maske at pleasure, & to disguise themselves in the habits of what Magistrate or Officer they fancy (bee they never so great) so that a man can hardly discern the true from the counterfeit. This, *Maternus* imagined would bee a fit time to colour his treason, & to act his  
Designe,

Designe, which was, to arme himselfe and his Followers, in all points, like the Emperours Guard: whereby they might thrust in among the Speares and Halberds, as part of his traine, and suddenly dispatch him, ere any were aware. With this purpose he privily entr'd the City with a select Troope; but some of his companions disdaining that their Fellow-thiefe should become their Prince and Sovereigne, discovered all to the Emperour: whereupon before the solemnity, this king of Rakehels and his Complices, were apprehended and executed according to their demerits. *Commodus* having sacrificed and rendered thanks and supplications to the Goddesse, for his deliverance, kept her holiday with great devotion, honouring the

Shew

He is detected by his fellowes and executed.

Shew with his owne presence, which made all the people so glad, that they celebrated the day with great joy, for the Emperours safety.

The Reason why the Romans have this Goddess in such high veneration, I have thought good to declare out of their Histories, becaule it is not commonly knowne to the Greekes.

They say, that her Image was let fall by love, and that it is unknowne who made it, or what it is made of; and they firmly beleeve it is no humane handiworke. The tradition is, that it fell in old time from Heaven, into a Field of *Phrygia*, called *Pessinus*, by occasion of that fall of the Image (it being there first discovered.)

The History of the chiefe Roman Goddesse.

Others

Others report, that a Battell was there fought betwixt *Illus* the Phrygian, & *Tantalus* a Lydian, the Quarrell being, either about a way, or for the stealing away of *Ganymede*: and when they had long fought on even tearmes, and many were slaine on both sides, the Place had that name of the great Slaughter there made. There likewise they say, that while *Ganymedes* brother strove to rescue him from his Lover, he was pull'd in pieces betwixt them: but to salve the matter, it was given out, that *Iove* tooke him from them both; whereupon he had divine honour ascribed to him. In this \* *Pessinus* the Phrygians in old time celebrated their *Orgia* upon the bankes of the River \* *Gallus* (whence the gelded Priests of the Goddesse, are called

\* See *plin.*

*l. 5. c. 32.*

\* Of which river who-soever

dranke, became so mad, that he gelded himselfe

led *Galli*.) But when the Roman State beganne to flourish, the Oracle telling them that their Empire should continue and overtop all others, if they could get among them the Goddesse of *Pessinus*, they dispatched Embassadours into *Phrygia*, to desire the Goddesse Image, which was easily graunted them, because they alledged that they were their cousins of the whole bloud, and descended of *Aeneas* the Phrygian. When the Image was brought by Ship to the mouth of *Tyber* (which was then the only Port the Romans had) suddenly by some divine power the Ship stood still, and could not be moved with all the haling or pulling of the Romanes. At last a Vestall Nunne, that was falsely accused to have lost her Virginity (which she had vowed

ed to keepe inviolate) fearing she should be condemned, besought the people to make the Goddesse *Pessinuntia* her Iudge: which being admitted, she untied her Girdle, and prayed in the hearing of all, that if the Goddesse knew her to be a Virgin immaculate, she would command the Ship to remove. Then tying her Girdle to the Ship, she pulled, and it followed her: the Romans admiring both the Divinity of the Goddesse, and the virginity of the Priestesse. And thus much of the Story of the Goddesse *Pessinuntia*; which though it bee somewhat long, yet I trust will not be unpleasing to them that are not versed in Roman Antiquities.

*Commodus* having escaped the Treason of *Maternus*, doubled his Guards, came seldome abroad,

broad, retired himselfe to his Houses of *Pleasure* in the Suburbs, or to his Mannours farre from the Citie, and gave over all Exercise of Imperiall Iurisdiction.

It hapned about the same time, that all *Italie* was infested with a furious Pestilence, but especially the City of *Rome*, which of it selfe was wonderfull populous, and had (besides) a great number of strangers in it, that resorted thither from all parts of the World. By reason of which Confluence, there was a strange Mortality of Men and Beasts. Then was *Commodus* perswaded by his Physicians, to retire to *Laurentum*, which had a more coole and temperat aire, and many shady groves of Lawrell (from whence it tooke the name.) For they sayd, that the

A Plague  
at Rome.

D

sweet

\* Of Antidots against the Plague, and groves of Bayes, See L.S. *Antidots* Natural History, Centur. 10. Experiment 913. and 936.

A Famine at Rome.

*Cleander* a Favourite.

sweet smell and pleasant shade of \* Bay-trees, did much availe against the Contagion: For which purpose also, the Citizens (by advice of Physicians) annoynted their Eares and Nostrills with precious Ointments, and continually used Perfumes and sweete Odoraments, that their senses (as they sayd) being prepossessed, the infected Ayre might not enter, or if it did might bee over-mastered. But notwithstanding, the Plague still raged, and Men and Beasts were every where found dead, on heapes: There was also a grievous Famine in the City, upon this occasion: One *Cleander* a Phrygian, having been publickly sold for a Slave by the common Cryer, became the Emperours Page: and being bred in the Court, grew at last into such favour

favour with *Commodus*. Hee preferred him to great Honour and Authority, as first to be Squire of the Body, then Gentleman of his Bed-chamber, lastly, Captaine of the Guard. This fellow was so puff'd up with pride and too much rankenesse of prosperity, that hee also had a mind to the Empire. And having got a huge Masse of Treasure, hee monopoliz'd and ingross'd great store of Corn, which hee had lock'd in Granaries; intending when the Citie was pinch'd with want, suddenly to winne the good wills of the Commons and Souldiers with magnificent Donatives. He also erected a stately \* Gymnasium, and a publicke Bath. These were his bayts to catch the people.

His treasure

\* An Academy-Court

But the Romans having long borne him a grudge, and hated

He is generally hated.

him for his insatiable Avarice; sayd that he was the only cause of their Calamities. And first they publickly traduced him in the Theaters: but at last, all in generall ran to the Emperors Palace in the Suburbs, crying out against *Cleander*, and demanding Justice upon him. All the Suburbs being in an uproare, while *Commodus* lay wantonizing in the innermost roomes, and knew not of the tumult without (for *Cleander* lookt to that) on a sudden (ere any wist) there rusht among the people the Emperors armed Horsemen; who by *Cleanders* command, wounded and overthrew all afore them. The Citizens being all Footmen, and unarmed, were not able to resist: Whereupon they fled a-maine into the Citie, but being followed by the Corners of

He armes the Soldiers against the Commons.

Horie

Horse, great numbers were slain and trampled under the Horse-feet, or thronged to death: for the Lanciers pursuing them to the Gates (without any stay) killd them outright. The Citizens which kept home, understanding what slaughter was made of their friends and neighbours, shut their doores, and from their House-tops threw Stones and Tiles at the Horsemen. And now the Commons had the better: for, not fighting hand to hand, but darting and throwing every where aloft (out of their reach) they wounded many of them, and put them to flight: some were slaine by the continuall throwing of stones; others were throwne to the ground by their Horses, which stumbled on the Stones that lay on heapes.

D 3

Also

Also the Bands of Foot, which were billeted in the Citie, and hated the Horse-troops, suddenly came to the aid of the Citizens. A civill Warre being thus begunne, yet durst none tell *Commodus*, for feare of *Cleander*. At last, *Fadilla* (his eldest sister) running to the Emperour (for they could not deny access to her) with her haire dishevild, and in mourning weeds, prostrated her selfe at his feet, and said; *Your Majesty here pursues your pleasures, and little know in what danger you are. Wee your flesh and blood are ready to be slaughtered. Your Citie of Rome, and a great part of your Armie is overthrowne; and those outrages which Barbarians would not offer, your owne servants have acted; yea they, on whom you have beaped greatest Honours, are your*  
*chiefest*

*Fadilla  
Commodus  
his sister.*

*She detects  
Cleander.*

*chiefest enemies: Cleander hath armed the Commons, and Souldiers against you; and being hated of one sort, and loved of the other; both sides are up in Armes, and are now killing one another, and filling the Citie with blood. And wee anon shall smart for this Geere, unlesse you presently make an end of that your wicked Servant, who is the Author of all this mischiese, and will instantly bee your ruine. Having thus said she rent her garment and divers there present, taking heart at the words of so great a Lady, put *Commodus* into a terrible fright. And now fearing the instant danger, hee sends hastily for *Cleander*, who knew nothing of what was told the Emperour, but suspected somewhat. Being come, hee commands him to bee arrested; and having stricke off  
D 4 his*

his head, and fastned it to a Speares point, hee sent it to the Commons; to whom it was a most pleasant and welcome Spectacle.

Thus was that bloody broile extinguishd, and the fight on both sides ceased. For the Souldiers seeing him flaine, in whose quarrell they fought, feared the Emperours displeasure: for it was now apparant that hee was abused, and that what was done, was without his warrant. But the Commons were well satisfied with his death, that was the cause of all the mischief: And now *Cleanders* two Sonnes (all the children hee had) and all that had beene his *Flies* and *Familiars*, were murdered, to a man; whose carkasses were drag'd through the Citie in most oppro-

probrious sort, and lastly, throwne into the lakes. This was the fatall end of *Cleander*, and his Complices: Humanity (as I may say) having ambitiously shewed in one man, that as Fortune can upon small occasion, raise from low degree, to high dignity; so in unexpected manner, She can likewise præcipitate whom shee hath advanced.

*Commodus* being now afraid, lest the Commons would rise, and attempt some new matter against him; was perswaded notwithstanding by his Courtiers, to enter the Citie: where being received by the People with great Applause and Magnificence, hee repozed himselfe in the Imperiall Palace. And now having past so many *sharpe Pikes*, hee was jealous of  
D 5 every



Commodus  
his Cruelty  
and Cre-  
dulty.  
\* Diabo-  
lisme.

every one, killing first one, and then another; for hee gave credit to all \* Accusations, though never so false. Moreover, hee was so enslaved to sundry sensuall pleasures, which tooke him up wholly day and night, that hee abandoned all honourable Studies and Exercises, and banisht from his Court, as infidicus Persons, all that had the least measure of Honesty or Learning. But Buffons and Debauched Miscreants, were (as his chiefe Minions) most powerfull with him. He was excessively given to Coach-races, and fighting with wild Beasts: more than became the modesty or Majesty of a Soveraigne Prince: yet his Flatterers extold him as a brave Champion, for those Feats.

SACRED  
HISTORIE.

At this time there appeared

in the sky divers feareful signes. Starres were seen continually in the Day-time, and blazing Comets of a huge length, hang'd (as it were) in the midst of the ayre. All sorts of Creatures contrary to kind, brought forth monstrous and deformed births. But that which most grievously afflicted the Citie for the present, and amazed them with the ominous Pre-sage, was this most hideous disaster; that the Temple of Peace (the stateliest and daintiest Monument of Rome) was on a sudden, without any Storme or Tempest preceding (but onely a little Earth-quake) quite burnt to the ground: whether by lightning, or fire (which might burst out, by the shaking of the Earth) is uncertaine. That Temple was the richest of all other.

\* *Αναθή-  
μα* *Θεοῦ*.

*teme fired.*

\* The Pal-  
ladium;  
the sacred  
fire, &c.  
were in the  
Vestalls  
Charge.  
*L. II. c. 11.*  
*c. 2.*

other, because of its strength;  
being curiously adorned with  
\* *Donaries*, of Massive Gold  
and Silver: yea, every person  
of *Quality*, had stored there his  
principall treasure. But the fire  
haping in the night, made ma-  
ny rich men poore. All there-  
fore deplor'd the publike, and  
every one his private losse.  
When the fire had consumed  
that Temple, it burned also ma-  
ny of the most beautifull build-  
ings of the Citie: among  
which was the goodly *Fane* of  
*Vesta*; insomuch that the Image  
of \* *Pallas*, which the Romans  
kept in secret and sacred venera-  
tion, and was brought (as they  
say) from *Troy* into *Italy*, was  
now first seene in publike: For  
the Vestall Virgins carried it  
through the *Sacred Street*, and  
conveighed it into the Empe-  
rours

rours Palace. Most of the fai-  
rest *Peeces* in all the Citie, pe-  
rishd in these flames, which ra-  
ged many dayes together, and  
could not bee quenched but  
with sudden showers which fell:  
whereupon, it was wholly re-  
puted a *Celestiall Worke*; all  
men being fully perswaded, that  
the fire began and ended by the  
Decree and Power of the gods.  
Divers also conjectured that the  
burning of the Temple of  
*Peace* was a *Prognosticke* of  
*Warres* to ensue: which *Con-  
ceit* was verified by the sequell,  
as in the succeeding bookes we  
shall declare.

The Romane Citizens being  
thus surrounded with direfull  
mis-haps (one in the necke  
of another) begaune to looke  
sowre upon *Commodus*; impu-  
ting all their miseries to his il-  
legall

*Commodus*  
his prodigi-  
ous vanity.

legall Executions and dismall Deeds: For his Excesses were notoriously knowne to all; neither did he seeke to vaile them: being ambitious to exhibite in publike those base things which he formerly acted in secret. Yea to such drunken dorage hee was now grown, that he refused his Fathers name, cōmanding himselfe, in stead of *Commodus* the Sonne of *Marcus*, to bee stiled *Hercules* the Sonne of *Iupiter*: and accordingly he forsooke the Romane and Imperiall Habit; and in stead thereof, thrust himselfe into a Lyons skinne, and carried a great Club in his hand; and (which made him extremely ridiculous) he put on also purple *Amazonian* Robes, embroydered with Gold; expressing in one and the same Garbe, a Feminine Delicacie, and a more

than

than Masculine Austerity. This was his daily Attire. Hee gave also new names to the Moneths of the Yeare, abolishing the old, and calling them after his owne " Sirnames: most whereof, re- ferr'd to *Hercules*, as to the most valorous *Heroë*. Further he commanded his Statuaes to be erected in all parts of the Citie, and One before the Senat-house, in forme of an Archer ready to shoot; to the end his very Images might strike a terror into the beholders. But after his Death, the Senate tooke it away, and placed there the Image of " *Liberty*. And now could not *Commodus* any longer containe, but needs must he make himselfe an Actor in publike Shewes: proclayming that hee would with his owne hands kill the Wilde Beasts that should be presented,

" As *August*, *Commodus*:  
September,  
*Herculeus*:  
December,  
*Amazonius*

" A Goddess among the Romans.

and

and likewise fight at sharpe with the bravest Sword-men. When this strange Newes was blaz'd abroad, there flocked innumerable people out of *Italy*, and the Countries adjoyning, to see that spectacle which they never saw, nor heard of the like before. For hee was generally reputed such an excellent Marke-man, as, whatsoever he ayimed at, he could hit with Dart or Arrow: and though hee had about him most expert Parthian Archers, and Numidian Darters, yet hee farre exceeded them all.

When the day of that grand Solemnity was come, the Amphitheater was thronged with Spectatours. Now there was a Tarras set up for *Commodus*; wherein to runne round about it; and thence fight (aloft) with the Beasts, without indangering

*Commodus*  
an excellent Darter and Archer.

gering his person (which shewed rather his skill in Shooting, than his Valour.) Hee flew in Chase, Buckes, Doe, and other horned Beasts (except Bulls) not one escaping him: But from the Tarras he darted at Lyons, Panther, and other of the Nobler sort of Beasts, with that rare dexterity, as that he never threw the second time, nor gave them any wound but was mortall. For when the Beast was rowzed, he presently hit it in the Head or Heart, ayiming at no other part of the body; so that as soone as it was strucke, it fell dead. For this purpose, all kinde of wilde beasts were brought farre and neere; and then did we first see those, which before we admired in their pictures. Thus did hee (to the Amazement of all) at once both shew and slay whatsoever

for ever strange beast was brought from *India, Ethiopia*, North or South; so ready and ready a hand he had at his Weapon, to the Astonishment of all men.

Once did hee shoore Forked Arrows at Moresco Estriges, which were wonderfull swift of foot, using their Wings as Sailes in running. These did he hit so par in the necke, that their heads being stricke off, they ranne a while \* headlesse, so furious was the blow.

Another time, a Panther having seiz'd a man (that was brought into the Lists) with such vehement speed, that all made account she would instantly teare him in pieces; he darted at her with such lucky speed, as that he killed the beast and saved the man, preventing the dint of her teeth, with the poynt of his

\* See the reason hereof, in that noble L. of S. Albans, Nat Hist. Cent. 4. Exp. ult.

his Weapon. He slew also 100 Lyons with so many Darts; their bodies falling in such order, that they might easily be numbred (not one Dart miscarrying.)

These Feates of Activity, though unbecoming a Prince, yet because they were proofes of his Valour and Dexterity, were not displeasing to the people. But when hee entred the Amphitheater naked, and beganne to play the Gladiator; O it was a direfull sight to see a most nobly descended Emperour, after so many Trophies of his Father and Ancestours, not to fight like a Souldier against Barbarians, nor to arme himselfe like a Roman Prince, but to prostitute so glorious a Dignity to so sordid a profession. He easily vanquisht his Antagonists, and

*Commodus* playes the Fencer.

and attempted no further than to draw bloud; every one yielding him the Mastery; as acknowledging him rather an Emperour than a Fencer. In this mad humour he ranged so farre, as that hee purposed to forsake his Palace, and live in a Fence-Schoole: and now being weary of the Name of *Hercules*, hee assumed the Name of a famous Sword-Player, deceased. And whereas the Romans had the Colossus or Image of the Sunne in great veneration, hee tooke the head from it, and set on another, representing his owne; inscribing in the Basis, not his Fathers Titles, or any Imperiall Stile (as he was wont) but in stead of *Germanicus* [or Conquerour of *Germanie*] The Vanquisher of a thousand Gladiators.

But

But now was it hightime for him to leave his Foolery, and the Citie to bee freed from his tyrannie; which fell out in the beginning of the yeare, on that day which the Romans keepe holy to *Ianus* the most ancient God of *Italy*, who entertained *Saturne*, expelled by his sonne *Jupiter*; from whose concealment, it had the name of *Lati-um*. Wherefore to this day they first celebrate the Feast of *Saturne*, and then of *Ianus*: whose Image hath two heads; alluding to the beginning of the new, and end of the old yeare. Now whereas the Romans were wont on this prime Festivity, to congratulate each other, and to send to their friends peeces of Gold and Silver, and divers other gifts interchangeably, in token of mutuall love and ob-  
Newyeres-gifts.  
Feast.  
Ianus his

fervance: and the chiefe Magistrates of the Citie vested themselves in rich Purple, in honour of that great Solemnity; *Commodus* then determin'd to issue forth, not out of the Imperiall Palace (according to the ancient custome) but out of a Fenceschoole; and to shew himselfe openly to the people, not in his Robes and Princely Purple, but armed like a Master of Defence, with a traine of Gladiators following him.

*Marcia*  
*Commodus*  
his Concu-  
bine.

This his determination, when hee had imparted to *Marcia* his most honoured Concubine, who as if she were his married Wife, had all the honours of Empresse, except that of FIRE; Shee fell downe on her knees, and besought him with teares, not to prophane the Majesty of the Roman Empire in that sort,  
nor

nor to hazard his person among such lewd and desperate Ruffians. But when after much intreaty, shee saw there was no hope of prevayling, shee went away weeping. Then he sends for *Latus*, the Generall of his Armies, and *Ektus* his Chamberlaine, and commands them to prepare a lodging for him that night in the Fence-schoole, that hee might the next morning goe from thence to sacrifice on that solemne Festivall, and shew himselfe in Armes to the Romans. They humbly desired him to desist from that purpose, and not to doe an act so unworthy an Emperour: whereupon, in great rage hee commands them out of his presence; and retiring into his bed-chamber, to repose himselfe at Noone (as hee vvas  
VVONT

went) he tooke his Table-booke, and writ downe those which hee doomed to death that night. Among which, were *Marcia*, *Latius*, *Electus*, and a great number of Nobles, and Senators; for he was fully resolved to cut off all the ancient Councillors, and others, which were his Fathers friends; lest his blacke deeds should be checkt by their grave censures; intending to divide their Goods and Estates among the soulders & Sword-players; that the one sort might defend him, the other delight him. Having thus done, hee layd his Table booke on the Pallet, not imagining that any would enter his Chamber. Now there was a little Boy that could scarce speake; such as those, which being halfe naked, are deckt with gold and precious

ous stones; and are the choicest delights of the noble Romans. This boy *Commodus* so extremely loved, that hee kept him oft by him, and was called *Philos-Commodus*, that is, *Commodus* his Darling; his name shewing how hee loved him. The child being full of play, went (as hee usually did) into the Bed-chamber (while *Commodus* was bathing and revelling with his Minions) and taking the Booke to play with, went forth, and as some Divine Power ordained, *Marcia* met him; and catching him up in her armes and kissing him (for shee dearely loved him) tooke the booke from him; fearing lest by his childish dalliance, he might blot out some matters of weight. As soone as shee perceived it was *Commodus* owne

E han l,



*Marcia*  
and others  
conspire  
the Empe-  
rors death.

hand, shee had a great appetite to reade it, But when she found the deadly Contents, and that she before all others was to bee slaughterd, and that *Letus* and *Electus* were to follow, with such a number of noble persons, she sighd and said thus to her selfe: Is it so, *Commodus*? doe you thus reward my love? Have I deserved this at your hands, for enduring your ignoble and debauched conditions so many yeares? You shall find that a sober woman is able to dash your drunken Designs. Immediately shee sends for *Electus* (as shee was wont) in regard hee was Lord Chamberlaine; who (as it was thought) was over-familiar with her, and giving him the booke, said; See (*Electus*) what a banquet we are to have this night. He, as soone  
as

as hee read it, being amazed (now hee was an Egyptian borne, a bold and daring fellow, and very cholericke) seald up the booke, and sent it forthwith by a trusty messenger to *Letus*; who being likewise startled, instantly repaired to *Marcia*, pretending hee was to speake with her about dressing the Fence schoole for the Emperour. Under this colour they resolved that now they must instantly *doe* or *suffer* without delay or procrastination. They concluded to dispatch him by poyson, which *Marcia* undertooke to effect very easily, in that shee still used to give him the first Cup, which from her hand hee would take most kindly. As soone as hee returned from his bathes, shee presented him a poysoned Cup of Aromaticall  
E 2

maticall Wine. *Commodus* being exceeding thirsty with much bathing and chasing of wild beaſts, quaffes it off as hee was wont. Whereupon his head being very heavie, he fell into a ſlumber, by reaſon of his vehement exerciſe (as was ſuppoſed.) Wherefore *Electus* and *Marcia* commanded all to bee gone and depart the Court, leſt they diſturbed his reſt. Thus was it ever with him in his drunken fits: for when hee bathed or banquetted, hee had no ſet times of Repoſe: being ever diſtracted with ſeverall ſorts of pleaſures, which ſtill enthralled him. Having reſted a while, and the poyſon now working in his ſtomack and belly, his head grew light, and now hee felt a vomiting extremely; either by reaſon hee had

*Commodus*  
poyſoned  
and ſtrang-  
led.

had formerly over-glutted himſelfe with feaſting, and carowſing (which might haply expell the poyſon;) or elſe becauſe he uſed (as Princes doe) to take ſome antidot to prevent poiſon. When he had long vomited, the conſpirators fearing, leſt diſgor- ging all the poiſon, hee ſhould come to himſelfe, and put them all to the ſword, they promiſed a great reward to *o c Na ciſſus* a tall deſperate youth, to ſtrangle him as hee lay. And this was *Commodus* end, having reigned 13 yeares after his Fathers deceaſe; the moſt Nobly-deſcended of all the Emperours before him, and the goodlieſt perſon of his time. And to ſpeake of his dexterity in Darting, inferiour to none. But he beſpurtled his life with foule Vices and ignoble Exerciſes, as hath bin declared.



## HERODIAN HIS IMPERIALL HISTORIE.

### *The second Booke.*

#### The Contents.

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Policie to get the Empire. Stage-Playes and Revels. Nigers Speech. He is elected Emperour, and visited by Embassadors. His Security and Error. Severus described. His strange Dreame. His depe Policie. Hee is elected Emperour. His Speech. His Expedition to Rome. Italy surprized. Iulian amazed. Alpes. Elephants trayned. Severus his Stratagem. Iulian deserted and slaine. Severus takes the Pretorians by a train. His Speech to them. They are degraded. Hee enters Rome. Hee courts the Commons and Nobles. His warlike Preparation against Niger. Hee scares the Britans. Their Elogie. Albinus their Governour. He is declared Cæsar by Severus. Herodian writes a Historie of 70 yeares.

**C**OMMODVS being\* slain as hath beene related in the former booke) the Compurators (carefull to conceale the Fact from the Souldiers which warched the Empe-

\* In the Night.

E 4                      rours

rous Pallace) caused his Corps to be wrapped and wound up in a course Coverlet, and gave order to two of their trustiest Servants to carry it forth, as some voyd stufte sent out of the Bed-chamber. They which conveyed it away, passed easily thorow the Guards, which were either so drunke or drowsie, that they could scarce hold their Halberts; or else gave small heed to that, which (they thought) little concerned them. Thus was the Emperours Corps closely carryed out of the Court Gates, and sent (by Coach) that night to *Arstium*.

*Latius*, *Electus*, and *Marcia*, having debated what was best to be done, resolved to give out, that he dyed suddenly of an Apoplexie; which they thought would easily bee credited, his excessive  
Epicu-

Epicurisme and Intemperance being so vulgarly knowne. But their first care was, to elect for Emperor some ancient and temperate man, both for their owne safety, and that all might have a breathing time, after so bitter and wanton a Tyrannie.

After consultation, they held none so fit as *Pertinax*, who was an *Italian* borne, famous for many noble acts in Peace and Warre, and renowned for many victories over the German and Easterne Barbarians; and the onely able man that was left of all those honourable persons. which *Commodus* was recommended to by his Father *Marcus*, who reposed greatest confidence in him, above all his Nobles and Commanders; whom *Commodus* either revered for his Gravitie, or spared for

*Pertinax*  
his descrip-  
tion.

his Poverty: for that also was part of his praise, that whereas hee tooke greatest paines in governing the State, yet hee was the poorest of all the Nobility. To him therefore at midnight, when all were asleepe, *Latius* and *Electus*, with a few others of that faction, addresse themselves; who finding the Gates shut, call up the Porter, who opening the Gate, and perceiving the Souldiers, and *Latius* the Generall, ran in great affright and amazement to tell his Master. *Pertinax* bids him bring them to him, saying, that now that mischief would be-tide him, which hee had long expected. They say, that such was his undaunted spirit, that he neither forsooke his bed, nor changed his countenance, but with a bold courage, and unpalled

is brave  
in it.

palled visage, spake thus to *Læ-tus* and *Electus* (whom he supposed to be sent to murder him:) *This indeed is the end that every night I have a long while expected, being the last of all his Fathers friends; and I have oft wondered that Commodus was so slow to dispatch me. Why then forbear yee? Doe as you are commanded, that I may bee rid from continuall feare and anxietie.* *Læ-tus* replied: *Speake no further of these things, which are so farre beneath your merit: Our comming is not for your destruction, but for the safetie of our selves and the Roman Empire. For the Tyrant is dead, and hath his due reward, having suffered that which hee intended to inflict on us. Our comming therefore is to invest you in the Empire, whom of all the Nobilitie we know to be, for Vertue, Authority,*

His wor-  
thy attenti-

Age,

*Age, and Gravity, most loved and honoured by the people; not doubting, but this our choice will be acceptable to them, and most safe for us. Pertinax answered; I am too old to be deluded in this sort. Why doe you offer to abuse me as a Coward, and so to slay me? Then said Elctus; Since you will not credit us, reade this Booke (you know Commodus his hand, having beene so long used to it) and then you shall perceive what danger wee have escaped, and that we speake not this to try you, but truly to informe you. Which when Pertinax had done, knowing them also to be his ancient friends, and understanding all the busines, hee yeelded himselfe to their dispose. First then it was thought fit to send to the Army, to know how the Souldiers would take it: but *Latus* undertooke*

*tooke to get their goodwill, being their Generall, and therefore of some authority with them. Wherefore the night being farre spent, and the next day the Feast of the New-year, they hastned to doe all before it were day. They sent also some of their trustiest servants, to disperse the newes of Commodus death, and Pertinax his going to the Army to be made Emperour. Which when it was divulged in the Citie, all the people in an extasie of Ioy, ran through the streets to bring the happy tydings to their friends that were of any note for wealth or worth; (for such were in greatest danger of Commodus.) Wherefore they ran to the Temples and Altars to give thanks to the Gods (for their deliverance.) And now some cried*

*Who in  
greatest  
danger of  
Tyrants.*

cried out, the Tyrant was dead; some, the Fencer; others, worse than all this: For that which before they durst not mutter for feare, they now proclaimed with impunity. But the most part of the people posted to the Army, being much afraid, lest the ruder Souldiers accustomed (under the former Tyrannie) to ravine and spoile, would not admit for Emperour, so mild a Prince as *Pertinax*: which to the end to perswade them to, the more forcibly, they went thither in great numbers. *Letus*, *Electus*, and *Pertinax* (with the multitude) being entered the Campe, and the Souldiers called together, *Letus* spake thus.

LAETVS

*Letus his speech to the Army.*

**C**ommodus our Emperour is dead of an Apoplexy. There is no *Letus* his other cause of his death but himselfe. <sup>speech to the Army.</sup> and though wee endeavoured to reclaime him to a better course of life, yet all was but lost labour: For carrying himselfe as you know hee was wont, hee hath killed himselfe with Gluttony and Drunkenness. This was his fatall destiny; for all die, not by the same meanes, but by different wayes come to their sommon end. But instead of him, wee, and the people of Rome, here bring you a man venerable for Age, Gravity, and Integrity; and of approved skill in martiall affaires, whose brave\* exploits you which are Veterans, experimmentally know; the rest cannot but acknowledge, that he hath these many service in yeares governed the Citie with singular honour and admiration. Fortune doth therefore tender you not onely a Prince, but a Parent most indulgent: <sup>Britannica</sup> *Letus* whose

\* *pertinax* had done honourable service in Britaine, and was therefore surnamed *Britannicus*

whose government, as it will bee pleasing to your selves here present, so it must needs bee acceptable to your fellowes in Armes, which guard the bankes of the Rivers, and defend the Marches of the Empire; in regard they well remember his noble acts. And now wee shall not need to win the Barbarians with money; who will be sufficiently awed with the experience of what they suffered under his victorious Armes.

*Latius* having thus sayd, while the Souldiers pawsed, and were demurring on the businesse; all the people with joyfull Acclamations, proclaymed *Fertinax* Emperor and Father of their Countrey. So also did the Souldiers, though not with the same Alacrity: for the Multitude being every where mixt among them who were unarmed because it was Holi-day, did after a sort constraine them to it, being but few

few (in comparison of them.) All therfore having sworn Fealty to him, and beene present at the Sacrifice, the Souldiers and Commons with Lawrell branches in their hands, conduct him ere it was Day-light, to the Imperiall Pallace: whither being come, he was exceeding pensive. For though hee wanted neither spirit nor resolution, yet did the present action much distract and dismay him; not that he doubted so much his owne safety (for he had despised greater perills) but considering with himselte the sudden Change of the Tyrannicall Government, and the Noble descent of some chiefe Senarours; hee supposed they would not suffer the Empire to be invested in a man of a meane and obscure Familie, after an Emperour of so Princely a Lineage.



nage. For though his Life was much commended for his temperate carriage, and for deeds of Armes hee were most famous; yet was hee farre exceeded in birth by many of the Senatorian Order. Wherefore as soone as it was Day-light, hee went to the Senat-house, not suffering Fire to be carried before him, nor admitting any other Symbol of Sovereignty, till he knew the pleasure of the Senators: but they, when they saw him, did with one accord joyfully receive him, stiling him *Augustus* and Emperor. Which high and envious Title (as he termed it) he disavowed at first, excusing himselfe, by reason of his Age, and desiring them to passe by him, and elect some of the prime Nobility, which might better beseme the Empire. Then taking

taking *Gladio* by the hand, and pulling him forth, he placed him in the Imperiall Throne; Hee was the most Nobly descended of all the Peeres, and derived his Pedigree from *Aeneas*, sonne to *Venus* and *Anchises*, and had been twice Consul. Notwithstanding he spake thus; *I whom you judge most worthy, doe here render you this Princely honour; yea, all this noble Assembly adjudges you the Sovereigne Rule.* Whereupon *Pertinax* being irresistably importun'd, and almost compelled by the Senate; after much reluctance, he seated himselfe in the Chaire of Estate, and spake as followeth.

*Gladio* a noble Roman.

*Pertinax* confirmed by the Senate.

#### *Pertinax* his Speech to the Senators.

**Y**Our singular Zeale, and incomparable Love, in preferring mee before so many excellent Peeres, being so farre from the least suspicion of flattery

flattery, that it is a pregnant prooffe, and cleare demonstration of your Fidelity; might haply make some other more bold and cheeresfull to accept this Offer; and to imagine, he might easily undertake so great a Charge, that should be supported with your Friendship. But these rare and high favours amaze mee with their very sublimity; at the sight whereof, I am extremely intimidated. For it is no easie matter for a man, condignely to requite great Benefits. Among Friends, if greater Courtesies bee returned, than were exhibited; not so much the Gratiuity it selfe as the Gratitude is respected. But when a mans Friend hath (first) obliged him by signall Offices; if hee shew not all vicissitudinary Expressions of a thankesfull Heart, it may well bee thought to proceed rather from blockish Dulnesse, and brutish Ingratitude, than any other defect. I see therefore what a hard Taske I shall undergoe, to render my selfe worthy of this great Honour, which you have conferred upon me. For the Glory of Sovereignty con-

consists not in a \* Maite of State, \* *ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ* but in such royall Acts as are well-beseeming a Prince. Looke how much Men abhorre the Evils which are done and past, so much more are they apt to hope for better times. Great Injuries are ever remembred: and Grievances are very rarely forgot: but Good turnes perish as soon as they are done, together with their Memory. Thus are we not so sensible of the sweetnesse of Liberty, as of the bitterness of Bondage and Slavery. Nor doe men take it as a Courtesy, that they may securely enjoy their owne; For that, they hold, belongs to them as their proper right: But hee that is spoyled of his Good, or Fortunes, can never forget so haynous a Wrong. Neither doe men much esteeme the best Change that can happen for the publike Good (for common Benefits are little regarded of private persons.) But if they be diminished in their own particular estates, then are they touch'd to the quicke. Moreover, they which have bene ussed to the profuse Prodigality of Tyrants,

vants, if a man goe about to reduce them (when Money failes) to a more frugall and regular course, they will be ready to impute it rather to miserable basenesse, than prudent moderation: not considering, that such excessive Donatives (as heretofore) cannot bee given without Oppression and Rapine. But he that with Discretion gives to every one according to his Merit, is so farre from dispoysing others unjustly, that hee teaches all (by his Example) to bee provident Husbands. These things if you take into consideration; you will (I trust) lend me your helping hands, and assist mee in the Administration of the Empire: for seeing you are not like to live under a Tyranny, but rather an Optimisie, you have Cause to hope well, and perswade others also to the like Confidence.

*Pertinax* having with this speech exceedingly cheered the Senators, was with generall acclamations, and great honour and reverence, conducted to the  
Tem-

Temple of *Iove* and the other Gods, where having sacrificed for his good successe in the Empire, hee went to the Imperiall Pallace.

When it was voyced, how graciously he had spoken to the Senate and written to the Commons, all men were infinitely pleased; hoping that now they should have a worthy and temperate Governour, and a Father rather than an Emperour. For hee made an Edict, that the souldiers should no more wrong the Commoners, nor abuse any Passengers; intending to plant every where good order and civility. When hee went abroad, or sat in Iudicature, hee shewed what a mecke and sweet spirit hee had. And by his zealous imitation of *Marcus* his Government, he did exceedingly

*Pertinax*  
his rare go-  
vernment.

ly content the elder sort, and attract the Affections of all, who being delivered from the cruell Thraldome of Tyranny, lived now in great peace and security.

The fame of his Princely vertues, moved the Nations, Armies, and Confederates of the Romane Empire to Deifie him. Yea, the Barbarians which had revolted, or purposed to rebell, over-awed with the Remembrance of his Militar Vertue in former times; and calling to minde his singular Integrity, Justice, and Clemencie, did willingly submit themselves unto him. Embassadours also came from all parts, to congratulate the Romans, for so Nobly qualified an Emperour.

Embassadours.

The Pretorians maligne him.

But that, which was such a generall Rejoicement, was much resented by the souldiers in *Rome* which

which were the ordinary Guard of the Emperour. For being forbidden rapine & outrage, and recalled to a civil & regular forme of life by the Emperours Edict, they reputed his mild & moderate government to tend to their great Dishonour and Disparagement: and because it bridled their licentiousnesse, they resolved not to indure it. For a while, they did but grudge and grumble at his Commands; but at last, when he had not yet raigned two months (having given pregnant hopes, in that short time, of many excellent good acts) the malignity of Fortune overthrew all, and quite dasht his noble & admirable designs for advancement of the Weale publike. For he first enacted that all the wast Ground in *Italy*, and other Countries (though of the Princes demesne) should

Partly be  
Forth to  
the Com-  
mons.

should be planted and improved and freely given to them that would cultivate and manure it: to which purpose, hee granted to Husbandmen, ten yeares immunitie from all Taxes, and security from all further Trouble during his Raigne. As for the peculiar Goods of the Emperors, he permitted not his name to be stamped on them; saying, that the Propriety thereof pertayned not to the Emperour, but to the Romane State in generall. Hee released all Tolls and Imposts exacted in the time of Tyranny, at the Bankes of Rivers, Ports of Cities, High-ways, and Rodes; asserting them to their ancient Freedome. Many the like good Deeds hee intended; which shewed his firme Resolution to benefit his Subject. He banisht Informers out of

Informers  
punisht.

of the City, and commanded them to bee punished where ever they were found, to the end none might be indangered or ruined by their forged Criminations. Heereupon the Nobility and Cōmunaltie promised to themselves an assured happy Estate. For hee was so moderate and \* fellow-like, that he would not admit his sonne, a young Youth, into the Court, but caused him to live a privat life. He frequented the publicke Schooles and Lectures, repaying also to the usuall Places of Exercise, where hee demeaned himselfe as an ordinary man, without any Princely pompe or State.

\* fellow-like

*pertinax*  
love to  
learning.

*Pertinax* thus ruling with singular good order and decency, the Prætorian Souldiers (not enduring to be restrayned any longer from their accusto-

The Praetorians mutine.

med rapines and outrages) consulted and agreed (at a drunken Feast) to make him away (who was so great a grievance to them) and to substitute another that would impatronize their lawlesse and licentious misdemeanours. Whereupon, on a sudden, no man suspecting any tumult (for all lived in peace) in a great fury and Brutish rage they hurry at Noone-day (in a Military March) with drawne Swords, and Pikes advanced, to the Emperours Palace: where the Courtiers and Officers of State, affrighted with that sudden and unexpected Alarme, and not able (being few and unarmed) to resist so many men at Armes, forsooke their severall charges within the Verge of the Court, and fled. Howbeit, some few that were well affected

cted, told *Pertinax* of the Soldiers Mutiny; perswading him to avoid them by flight, and to desire the peoples aid. But albeir hee knew it were a safe course to follow their counsell, yet holding it an extreme Indecorum, derogatory to Imperiall Majesty, and unworthy his former glory, to fly, or conceal himselfe; hee resolved to affront the danger, hoping hee should perswade them, and appease their causelesse Commotion. Going therefore out of his Chamber, he met them, and askt the reason of that sudden Impression; dissuading them, without any shew of amazement: For, composing himselfe in a grave and venerable fashon, suitable to his Princely State, without any signe of submission, feare, or intreaty, hee spake thus. F; *Per.*

*Pertinax  
Fell of M.  
juste.*

*Pertinax his speech to the  
Prætorian Souldiers.*

**I**F you take away my life, it will bee  
no great matter of gaine to you, or  
losse to me, being arrived to this Age,  
with so much honour. For this hu-  
mane life must of necessitie determine  
at last. But if you, to whom the pre-  
servation of your Prince is concredi-  
ted, and which, by your oath, are to  
guard his Person, should be the first  
that murder him, and so pollute your  
selves with spilling your Countrey-  
mans and Emperours blood; (it were  
in present) a fact most hainous; and  
might prove (in future) no lesse dan-  
gerous to your selves. My conscience  
tels me, I have not wronged you at all.  
If you are sorry for Commodus  
death, it was no strange thing for a  
man to die: but if you thinke hee  
was made away by treason, it was none  
of my fault: For you know, I was not  
so much as suspected with it, but was  
altogether as ignorant as your selves  
of what was then done. The suspicion  
(if

(if any bee) must light upon others.  
And though he be dead, yet shall you  
want nothing which is agreeable to  
reason and your estate, and not clog-  
ged with violence and ravine.

With this speech divers of The like  
them were perswaded, and ma- effect of  
ny retreated, being daunted Majesty in  
with the Reverend Majestie of Q. Digniti-  
their Prince: but others flew as, he in  
upon him and flew the old Em- 12. lib.  
perour while hee yet spake. 14.  
Which executed act as soone He is mur-  
as they had done, purposing to dered.  
decline the fury of the multi-  
tude, who (th y knew) would  
take it most grievously, they  
ran to their Campe; where  
immuring themselves, they  
placed Armed men on the Bat-  
tlements, to keepe the people  
from the Wals. This end had  
that renowned *Pertinax*.

When this Massacre of the  
Prince was divulged, all places  
F 4 were

And extremely  
lamented.

were full of uproars, and dolefull Outcries; the people ran up and downe like Frantickes, in a great hurly burly; searching for the Actors, and not wotting where to find them, or how to bee revenged on them: but especially the Lords and Senators tooke it most to heart, as a common calamity, wanting now their indulgent Father, and most gracious Governour: all men fearing a relapse into Tyrannie; which they knew, the Souldiers so much delighted in. After a day or two, the people were calmed with their owne feares, and the chiefe Nobles and Magistrates retired to their remotest countrey houses, avoiding the danger that might ensue, by being present at the election of the next Successor.

The Souldiers perceiving that  
the

the people were quiet, and that none durst undertake to revenge the Princes death; kept themselves close within the Campe, appointing those that could speake lowdest, to proclaime from the top of the Wall, *that the Empire was to be sold, and hee that would give most Silver for it, should bee invested in it, by force of Armes; and safely conducted to the Imperiall Palace.* When they had made this Out-cry, none of the worthier or nobler sort of the Lords or Senators, nor yet any of those wealthie Citizens, which were the small remaines of *Commodus* Tyrannie, would goe to the wall, to traffique with them; as scorning the Empire [OF THE WORLD] on such base and dishonourable termes.

The Empire  
put to  
sale.

The brave-  
rie of the  
Romans  
first

But when *Julian*, a man of



Consular dignity, who was reputed a great monied man (but of little honesty) had notice late in the Evening, being at supper (in the midst of his cups and jollity) of the Souldiers Proclamation, hee was perswaded by his wife and daughter, and a number of Parasites, to rise from his \* Pallet, and hie him to the Wall, to see what was done. All the way as hee went, they counselled him to lay hold on the Empire, now it was profered; for having store of coine, hee might easily outvie all, in magnificent Donatives, if there should bee any competition. As soone therefore as hee got to the Campe-wall, hee shouted to them, promising to give whatsoever they desired: for hee said, hee had a mighty Masse of money, and

Trea-

\* *Sulplex*-  
 30.  
 (for the  
 Romans  
 fate not at  
 Tables.)

Treasuries full of gold and silver.

At that same instant, *Sulpi-* *Julian and*  
*tian* Provost of the Citie, who *Sulpitian*  
 had also beene Consull, and offer for  
 was *Pertinaxes* Father in law, came thither with an intent to buy the Empire. But the Souldiers were jealous of him, because of his alliance to *Bertinax*, mistrusting, hee went about to entrap them, and to revenge his death. Wherefore rejecting him, they put downe a Ladder, and took up *Julian* to the top of the Wall, yet admitted him not into the Campe, till the summe hee should give were agreed upon. Being entred the Campe, hee promised to renew the memory, and restore the honours and Statuaes of *Commodus*, which the Senate had abrogated; to afford them as  
 much.

much liberty, as ever they had under him; and to give to every Souldier, more silver then they demanded or expected, and that without delay, in regard he had it ready at home.

*Julian elected.*

The Souldiers allured with such faire Hopes, proclaymed *Julian* Emperour, surnaming him *Commodus*. Then flourishing their Ensignes (which they had garnisht with his pictures) they resolved to bring him into the Citie. *Julian* having sacrificed in the Campe (as new Emperours were wont) issued forth with a stronger Guard than formerly had beene accustomed. For having forcibly seiz'd the Sovereignty against the Peoples minde, by foule and shamefull meanes, hee might justly feare a Commotion. But the Souldiers arming themselves com-  
pleatly.

pleatly, put themselves in *Battalia*, that if need were, they might be ready to fight; placing their Emperour in the midst, and covering their heads \* with their Pikes and Targets, to prevent the Peoples throwing stones upon them from the House-tops (as they marched.) Thus they conducted him to the Palace, none of the Commons daring to resist, nor congratulating him (as was usuall at the Election of Emperours.) But on the contrary, they stood a farre off, cursing and banning him for purchasing the Empire with money.

\* In forme of a Testudo. *Vid. Lips. de Milit. Rom.*

The Commons curse him.

Here first of all, did the Souldiers fall into extremity of Debauchednesse, and by their ravenous and insatiable Desire of Money, the Imperiall Majesty was blasted with Contumelie. For there being none to vindicate

cate the cruell massacre of the former Prince, nor to withstand the bale Brocage of the present Vsurper; it was the chiefe cause of many Insolencies and Mutinies which afterwards happened: their Greedinesse of Money, and Contempt of Sovereignty, still inducing Murther and Bloud shed.

*Iulian* having thus ravisht the Empire, plunged himselfe presently into all Riot and Disorder, little regarding State businesse; being wholly devoted to an Vnprincely and voluptuary life. And now it was discovered, that hee had cogged, \* and cheated the Souldiers; and was not able to keepe up his Credit with them: for hee had not so great store of Coyne as he vaunted. As for the Exchequer, *Commodus* had long since exhausted

\* Ψάμα-  
μεν & ἡ ἀ-  
πάτησις.

hausted it, with his vaine luxury, and vast prodigality. The Souldiers therefore falling short of their hopes, were extremely offended with him, and the Commoners, who knew their minds, utterly scorned him; rayling at him, when he came abroad, and taunting him for his lewd and lascivious behaviour. Yea, in the \* *Cirque* or Race-yard (where was the greatest Concourse of people) they decryed *Iulian*; calling upon *Niger*, the chiefe Officer of the sacred Empire, to vindicate the Roman State, and hasten to free them from that propudious Government.

This *Niger* had beene Consul long before, & at that time was Præsident of *Syria*, which was then the highest and most eminent Dignity in the Empire; for the

\* The *Circus* (or Horse-race) was built in an Ovall forme of great length, with rows of Seats one above the other, able to containe above an hundred thousand Spectators. Σεμρις βασιλείας.

the *Phanician* Nation, and all the Regions as farr as *Euphrates*, were under his Command. He was now well steep in yeares, and having gone through many weighty Affaires, had got a very high esteeme for his Moderation and Sufficiencie: and was reputed to imitate *Pertinax*; for which Cause the Romanes did chiefly affect him. And now in all their Assemblies they still cryed aloud for him; reproaching *Julian* to his face, and universally calling upon *Niger*, with acclamations \*Imperiall.

When *Niger* understood the Romans inclination, and what Out-cries they made for him in their ordinary meerings; considering withall, that *Julian* was contemned by the Souldiery, for falsifying with them, and condemned by the communal-

ty,

ty, for his Mercenary Purchase; hee perswaded himselfe that the busines would easily be accommodated, and made no doubt of obtaining the Sovereignty. Wherefore imparting these Roman passages and intelligences to some few Tribunes, \*Coronels, and Captaines; hee sent them home one after another, that these *Aires* might (by their relations) bee dispersed among all the nations and Armies of the *Orient*: for by that course hee assured himselfe, that all men would most readily incline to him, when they saw that he did not insidiously invade the Empire, but was wooed to accept it by the ardent votes, and humble sute of the Romans. And according to his expectation, they flocked to him from all parts, beseeching and importuning

\* βασιλικῆς καὶ φωνῆς.

\* ἡγεμονίας.

*Niger's* Policy.

The Character of  
the Syrians.

Stage-  
plays and  
Revels.

tuning him to take upon him the Sovereigne rule. Now the people of Syria are naturally light, and prone to Innovations; and were infinitely devoted to *Niger*, both in regard hee had ruled with singular Clemencie, and had also entertained them with Shewes and Enterludes. For the Syrians are by naturall Inclination, great lovers of sports; inſomuch, that the inhabitants of *Antioch* (a mighty and flourishing Citie) ſpend (in a manner) all the yeare in ſportive Recreations, either in the Citie or Suburbs. Thus *Niger* by continuall courting them with *Bals*, *Maſques*, *Shewes*, and other pleaſurable paſtimes, had chained their affections to him. Which hee well knowing, appointed all the Souldiers thereabouts, to come together at a day

day prefixed; What time a great number of people being likewise aſſembled, hee thus ſpake to them from a high Seat purpoſely erected.

*Niger's Speech to the Army, &c.*

**V**ith what a gentle hand I have ruled among you, and how circumspect and punctuall I have beene in undertaking Actions of great import; I ſuppoſe is well knowne to all here preſent. Neither have I here aſſembled you of my owne head, out of ungrounded Hope or flattering Deſire. But the Romans call upon me with in- ceſſant Clamours and Sollicitations, to lend them my \* helping hand, and not permit ſo ancient, excellent, and glorious an Empire to bee baſely merchandized. Now as it were a high point of Folly and Preſumption, to attempt ſo great an Enterpriſe, without juſt Occaſion intitling: So to re- fuſe to ayd them which implore our helpe, might breed an imputation of cowardize

ῥῆμα σὺν  
τῆς πόλεως.

*Cowardize and Treacherie. The reason therefore why I have conven'd you at this time, is to know your Minde; and what Course you thinke were best: being desirous of your Advice, and Assistance in this weighty Affaire; which if it prosper well, will redound to your benefit, as well as mine. Nor are they vaine or meane Hopes which sollicite us; but the Romane people, whom the Gods have made Lords of the World: and the Impericall Dignity, which is yet wavering and unsettled in the person of any man. Now the Certainty of this Designe is apparent, both by the forwardnesse of them that crave our succour, and for that there is none to make Opposition or Resistance. For they which are come thence, assure us, that the Souldiers which sold the Empire to the Usurper, are not like to stick to him, because he hath broke his Credit with them; and was not able indeed to performe his Bargain. Shew therefore (I pray you) how you stand affected.*

At which Words, the whole  
Army

Armie proclaimed him Empe- <sup>Niger cle-</sup>  
rour and *Augustus*. Then vesting <sup>ed.</sup>  
him in Purple Robes, and other  
Royall Abiliments (as that sud-  
den Preparation would afford)  
they conducted him (with Fire  
carried before him) first to the  
Temples of *Antioch*, and then  
to his owne House; which now  
honouring as the Princes Pal-  
lace, they adorned on the Out-  
side, with all Imperiall Orna-  
ments.

*Niger* glad at his heart, of this  
good successe, seeing the Ro-  
mans and all others conspired to  
advance him, made no doubt  
of carrying the Sovereignty.  
When this Newes flew abroad,  
presently all the Nations borde-  
ring on *Europe*, willingly sub-  
mitted to him: sending their  
Embassadours to *Antioch*, as to <sup>Embassa-</sup>  
their rightfull Emperour. Also  
the

the Kings and Princes beyond *Euphrates* and *Tigris*, sent to congratulate him, promising their ayds, if he needed. He returned them many thanks, richly rewarded the Embassadors, and told them he needed no supplies, for hee was sufficiently assured of the Empire, and would raigne without blood-shed. In which Confidence reposing, he began to bee more remisse and negligent; solacing himselfe and the *Antiochians* with all variety of sports, and Theatricall delights; not regarding (which most concerned him) to take his journey to *Rome*, nor yet acquainting the *Illyrian* Armies; which he ought first of all to have solicited and gayned. But he perswaded himselfe, that as soone as they heard of it, they would side with the Romans, and Easterne Forces.

*Nigers security.*

*And Error.*

While

While hee thus demeaned himselfe, and anchored on these *Shallowes*, and Vncertainties; the Eruit of these Occurrents was fresh among the Pannonians, Illyrians, and all the Garrisons which were quartered on the Bankes of *Ister*, and the *Rhine*, to defend the Romane Empire from the Incurfions of the adjoining Barbarians.

The President of the Pannonians (for they all had but one Governour) was *Severus*, an African by Descent, a brave active man, but of a violent spirit, inured to a strict and austere life; easily induring labour and travell; of a nimble Apprehension, and quicke Resolution to execute what hee determined. When he perceived by the Messengers, that the Romane Empire hanged like a \* Meteor in

*Severus described.*

*\*μετεωρον.*

the

the Skie, and was exposed to him that could catch it; he condemned *Julian*, as an abject Fellow: and *Niger* as a dull Flegmaticke. Hee was also much animated by certaine Dreames, Oracles, and Presages; which are then best credited, when they are verified by the event: most whereof himselfe recorded in the Booke which he writ of his owne Life; and presented them also to publicke view, in Statuarie Representations; but his last and chiefest Dreame, which ray- sed him to the highest hope, I may not omit. What time *Severus* received intimation of *Pertinax* his Instalment in the Empire, having sacrificed and sworne Allegiance to him; comming home at night, he fell asleepe, and dreamed hee saw *Pertinax* mounted on a gallant Cour-

Courser, adorned with Impe. i. all Trappings, which carried him through the sacred \* Street at \* *Via sacra* Rome. But when he was to enter the *Forum*, where the people, in time of \* Democracie, had \* Popular Rule. their most solemn Assemblies; the Horse seemed to throw *Pertinax* (with a terrible fall) to the ground; and gently to suffer him (who stood next) to backe him; carrying him safely and steadily through the midst of the *Forum*; lifting up *Severus* on high, so that all the people saw him, and adored him. And there remaines to this day in the very same place, a huge brasle Image of that Dreame.

*Severus* thus encouraged, and perswaded he was called to the Empire by Divine Providence, resolved to try how the Souldiers were inclined: and first hee



convented a few Coronels, Tribunes, and Commanders; and taking occasion to speake of the Roman Empire, shewed how vilely it was prostituted; and that none of spirit or worth, went about to vindicate it. Hee inveighed also against the Pretorian Bands at *Rome*, as Traytors; for violating their oath, by spilling their Emperour and Countrey-mans blood; saying, that it was fit they should pursue *Pertinax* his murther with a sharpe revenge.

Now hee well knew that the memory of *Pertinax* was still fresh in the *Illyrian* Armies; which under his command (in the Emperour *Marcus* time) had got many glorious victories, over the Germanes: and when

\* *Scavonia*

hee was President of \* *Illyria*, hee carried himselfe very brave-

ly in the warres; and ruled with such wisdom and moderation, as well shewed his rare sweet spirit, and generous disposition. Wherefore they highly honoured his memory, and were enraged against his Assassins: *Severus* embracing this opportunity, did easily draw them to his bent, by the lustre of his faire and winning Propositions; pretending that hee affected not the Empire, nor any Principality, but was onely desirous to revenge the blood of that famous Emperour. For the Na-

*Illyrians* described.

tives of that Region, as they are a Race of men, mighty of body and limbe; tall Souldiers and good Sword-men; so are they but of slow wits; nor easily discerning the plot, if a man deale subtilly or \* politickly with them. Wherefore *Severus*

\* *Sparta* was an Illyrian, and *Gondomar* (they say) did severely over-reach him.

having solemnly vowed to pursue *Pertinaxes* murderers; they beleaved him, and submitting themselves, stiled him Emperour, and conferred upon him the Sovereignty.

Having thus assured the Pannonians, he presently sent to the bordering Nations, and to the Presidents of the Northern Provinces, which were under the Roman Regiment; whom he easily gained by great hopes, and faire promises. For he was the most cunning Dissembler in the world, and of a most winning behaviour; not regarding to falsifie his oath, to serve his turne. He knew how to cogge for his owne advantage; and would readily utter that with his tongue, which hee never meant in his heart. Thus by his courtly Letters hee won all the Illy-

*Severus a  
darke and  
subtile  
Prince.*

Illyrians to his lure, and likewise the Provinciaall Presidents. Which done, hee levied great numbers of Souldiers from all parts; assuming for his surname *Pertinax*; which hee thought would make him gracious both with the Illyrians and Romans (for their worthy esteeme of him.) His Army being assembled, hee thus spake to them from an high Throne.

*Severus* his speech to the Army.

**Y**our zealous veneration of the Gods (by whom you have sworn) and your singular devotion to your Emperours, doe well appeare by your detestation of those hainous crimes of the Pretorian Souldiers at Rome; which are men, rather for Shew, than Service. For my owne part, having never till this present, entertained such high hopes (for you know how loyall I have ever beene to



Rome; but love rather to sit still, and entertaine Fortune by the day: as holding it a sufficient Guardon of an usure Sovereignty. The Syrians are better scoffers than Souldiers, and more Minutall than Martiall. But the Antiochians (they say) are chiefly devoted to Niger. As for the other Countreies and Cities which as yet see none appear, that is worthy the name of an Emperour, or able to governe the state with wisdom and courage; they doe merely temporize and colloque with him. But when they shall understand that the Illyrian Army hath made another Election, and shall heare of my name (which is neither unknowne, nor inglorious among them, by reason of our exploits there, when wee were there President) you well know they will not charge me with sloth, or irresolution: nor will they offer to make prooffe of your brave  
 \* Τερραίων. \*courage, and martiall furie; being so farre, or Inferiours, for goodlinesse of person, and excellent skill at your weapon, when you come to hand-strokes. Wherefore let us instantly  
 advance

advance, and seize Rome, and the Imperiall Palace. Then may wee with greater facility pursue our other opusculum designs, taking our rise from thence; and reposing all our confidence in the Divine Predictions; and event in your victorious Armes, and unmatched.

Severus having thus sayd, the Souldiers with great cryes of joy, proclaimed him *Augustus* and *Pertinax*; making all possible expressions of Loyaltie and Alacritie.

Severus without further procrastination, commands all to Arme themselves as lightly as they could, and proclames his Expedition to Rome. Then giving them Donatives, and distributing to every one a competent Portion for a *Vaticum*; he marches with high speed & haughty courage, resting no where, nor scarce suffering his weary troops

to breathe them a little. Himselfe tooke as great paines as any, using as coarse Lodging, and hard Fare, as the meanest common Souldier; without any shew at all of Imperial pomp or delicacie; which made the souldiers much more affect him. For taking such infinite toyle in his own Person, it did so indeare him to them, that they readily did whatsoever he commanded.

After he had marched through *Pannonia*, and was come to the Mountaines of *Italie*, preventing Fame it selfe, by being seene as Emperour among them, before they had any Intelligence of his comming; all the Cities of *Italy* were in a fearfull Fever, at the approach of so great an Armie. For the Italians having long since left all use of Armie, and Militarie Discipline, devoted

He surpris-  
zes Italy.

ted themselves to Agriculture, and a peaceable course of life. While the Romanes were a free State, and Generalls were elected by the Senate, *Italy* was still in Armes, and having conquered the Greekes and Barbarians, became Lords of the world; there being not an Angle of Earth, or Climate under Heaven, whither the Glory of the Roman Armes extended not. But when *Augustus* came to the Monarchie, his pacificall Government induced a generall lazinesse and disu- tude of Martiall Exercises; for hee kept onely a certaine number of Mercenary Bands in Pay, to guard the Romane Empire, at the utmost bounds thereof, which were naturally fortified with great Rivers, deep Ditches, craggy Mountains, and vast Deserts and Wilderesses. Wherefore

fore, as soone as it was knowne, that *Severus* was comming with so mighty an Army, they were fore agast at that strange newes, and not daring to stirre against him, went to meet him with Lawrels in their hands. But hee making no longer stay at any place, than either to sacrifice to the Gods, or speake to the people, posted away for *Rome*. When *Julian* was advertised hereof, he made account he was utterly undone. For understanding what a numerous and potent Army the Illyrians were, and having no hope in the people (to whom hee was odious) nor much in the Souldiers (whom he had gulled) he made all the money he could, by himselfe or his friends, robbing the very Temples, and publicke Treasuries, and gave all to the Sould-

*Julian in  
great feare.*

Souldiers to purchase their good will. But they returning small thanks for his great largesse, tooke it rather as a due debt, than free gift. *Julians* friends counselled him to advance with his Army, and preclude the Alpine Straits. (Now the *Alpes* are exceeding high <sup>The Alpes.</sup> Mountaines (such as wee have none in these parts) circuling *Italy* like a wall; nature adding to the felicity of that Region, this impregnable fortification; extending from the North to the South-sea.) But *Julian* not daring to budge forth of the Citie, sent to the Souldiers to beseech them to take armes, and exercise themselves, and make trenches & rampiers before the Citie; wherein he prepared all military ammunition, & caused all the Elephants (which he kept <sup>Elephants  
trayned.</sup> for

for shew and State) to be taught to indure Riders : supposing the Illyrians and their Horses would be skared with the strange shape and bulke of those Beasts which they never saw before. All the City was now busie in providing Armes and Warlike Furniture. But while *Julian's* Souldiers goe slowly to worke, and scarce prepare for Warre, *Severus* is reported to be come already : who having appoin-  
*Severus his* *Stratagem.* ted many of his Souldiers, severall wayes to disperse themselves, and enter secretly into *Rome*, they arrived by sundry passages into the City (by night) covering their Armour with Rusticall habite, as if they had been plaine Countrimen. And now was the Enemy in *Julian's* bosome ere he was aware. When the People perceived this, be-  
 ing

ing all amazed, and greatly dreading *Severus* power, they beganne to incline to him, condemning *Julian* for a Dastard, and *Niger* for a Slugge, but commending *Severus* who was now at hand. Whereupon *Julian* being at his Wits end, and not knowing what to doe, assembled the Senate, and sent Letters to *Severus*, desiring to contract a League with him, and to be made his Consort in the Empire. But when the Senatours  
*Julian de-*  
 which had agreed on that course saw how basely timorous and dejected hee was, they reiected him for a Recreant, and wholly revolted to *Severus*. Two or three dayes after, when Newes was brought that *Severus* was now come in person, all the Citizens utterly forsaking *Julian*, assembled in the\* Guild-hall, by com-  
 \* *συνοδία*  
 Authority  
 of Consuls.  
 mand

mand of the Consuls (who in such doubtful times have charge of the Romane State) where they entred into Consultation, what was best to bee done in that Exigent: *Julian* abiding (the while) in the Palace, deploring his Infortunity, and humbly begging that hee might abjure the Sovereignty, and resigne all his Imperiality to *Severus*. But when the Senate understood, that *Julian* was in such desperate Horrour, and that his Guards (for feare of *Severus*) had quite forsaken him; they decreed his Death, and declared *Severus* sole Emperor. Then send they (as Commissioners) diverse of the chief Magistracie, and prime Nobility, to render to him all Imperiall Honours. The Execution of *Julian* was committed to one of the Tribunes, who finding

No receipt  
against  
Feare. (*Di-*  
*ctum Mariae*  
*illustrissimae*  
*Scotorum*  
*Reginae.*)

finding the wretched old Man (that had bough his owne Ruine with his Money) wholly deserted and forlorne; flew him, as he was tearing his hayre, with <sup>*Julian slain.*</sup> <sup>*ὁλοθυρσ-*</sup> <sup>*μενθ.*</sup> abject Lamentations. When *Severus* understood the Senates Declaration, and that *Julian* was slaine; hee hoped to doe greater matters; and layd a Traine to catch all the Pretorian Soldiers that had murthered *Pertinax*. He sent therefore secret Letters to their\* Tribunes and Cen- \* Coronels  
turations, promising them great and Cap-  
rewards, to perswade their Com- taines.  
panies in the Citie, to submit to his Mandates. Meane while, he makes Proclamation, that all of them, leaving their Armes in the Campe, should come forth like <sup>*Severus his*</sup> peaceable men, in such Habits <sup>*Traine to*</sup> as they used when they atten- <sup>*take the*</sup> <sup>*Pretorians.*</sup> ded the Emperour at solemne  
Shewes



shewes and Sacrifices, that they might be sworne to *Severus*; and that they should come cheerefully, because they were to be his Guard. The Souldiers crediting this Edict, and being also perswaded by their Officers, lay aside all their Armes, and issue forth with lawrell branches in their hands, in such Equipage as they were wont in some great Festivity. When they drew near to *Severus* Campe, and it was told him they were all come, he commanded them to be brought to his presence, as if hee meant to welcome and enterraine them with all honour. But when they came before his Throne (with joyfull acclamations) upon a signall given at the instant, they were all apprehended. For *Severus* commanded his Souldiers, that when they saw

saw them assembled before him expecting some high favour, they should presently wheele about them in martiall manner; yet not wound nor strike them, but onely make a Ring, and hemme them in; presenting their Iavelins and Pikes towards them, which they being unarmed, and but few in comparison of them, durst not resist so many men at Armes. When *Severus* had thus impounded them, with a strong voice, and furious spirit, hee thus spake to them.

*Severus* his speech to the  
Pratorian Guards.

**Y**OU see now by experience, that wee farre exceed you in policie, power and number. You are easily caught, and as easily held. Now are you all at my devotion, to doe what I please with you. Here you stand

stand like a herd of beasts, ready to be sacrificed at my becke. If you expect a Doome, or Death, responsible to your blacke deeds, and detestable villanies; the World cannot afford it. You have barbarously butchered that venerable Father, and Excellent Emperour, whom, as his Guards, you ought to have defended. You have most shamefully truckt for silver (as if it had beene some of your owne goods) the most glorious Roman Empire, which was anciently the Guerdon of Nobility, or Militar<sup>\*</sup> vertue. And now like base<sup>\*</sup> Poltrones, you have betrayed him that was your Mercenary Sovereigne; not daring to guard or protect him. For these inextinguishable crimes you deserve a thousand deaths, if you had your due. Now you see what you are worthy to suffer. But I scorne to imitate you, or to pollute my hands with your blood. Neither justice nor equity permit, that you should any longer be the Emperours Guard; that thus have violated your oath, distained your selves with your naturall Princes blood, and be-

\* ἀνδρείας  
ἐν αὐτοῖς.

\* ἀνδρείας  
ως.

betrayed the trust and confidence reposed in you. Your Soules and Bodies (of my Noblenesse) I am content to bestow upon you. But I command my Souldiers to ungirdle you; and divest you of all Military Attire, and Accoutrements; and send you away stript: which done, I charge you all to get you packing, farre from Rome: for I here decree, vow, and sweare, that if any of you be found within an hundred miles of the Citie hee shall die for it.

Having given this charge, the Illyrian Souldiers presently ranne to them, and disarming them of their short Swords, (which were curiously wrought with gold and silver, and customarily worne at solemn shewes) they tooke from them their belts, scarffes, and other military ornaments, and rasht off all their clothes; leaving them starke naked.

The Pretorians degraded.

When

Traytors  
betrayed.

When they saw themselves thus betrayed and taken with a Wile; there was no way but patience. For what could a few naked men doe, against so many armed? They departed therefore with heauiſe cheere; yet glad their lives were given them; ſhrewdly repenting, that by leaving their Armes, they had ſubjected themſelves to ſo foule and diſgracefull a Doome. *Seuerus* uſed alſo another policie; for doubting leſt being degraded, they would deſperately runne to their Campe, and reſume their Armes; he had ſent before ſome Troopes of his choiceſt and truſtieſt Souldiers, by ſecret wayes and paſſages, commanding them ſuddenly to ſeize their vacant Campe, and with their owne weapons to keepe them out, if they attempt-  
ted

ted to returne. Thus were thoſe Affaſſinates of *Pertinax* puniſhed.

Forthwith *Seuerus* with his <sup>*Seuerus enters Rome,*</sup> Army arranged in Battel-array, makes his entry into *Rome*; the Romans being at firſt ſight terribly afraid of him, for his daring and ſpeedy Enterpriſe. Howbeit, the Peeres and Commons received him with Lawrels, who of all Men and Emperours, was the firſt, that without blood or ſweat, effected ſuch rare Enterpriſes. Indeed, <sup>*His Elogie.*</sup> all things in him were admirable; eſpecially his high wit, piercing judgement, indefatigable induſtry, happy-hopefull audacitie in great and Heroicall Attempts.

After the people had welcomed him with their Acclamations, and the Nobles ſaluted

ted him at the City Gates, hee repayed to *Jupiters* Temple; where having sacrificed, he did his Devotions at the other *Fanes* (as the Emperours were wont) and lastly, betooke himselfe to the Imperiall Pallace. The next day he went to the Senat-houle, where hee made a smooth and plausible Speech; and then gave his \* Hand to all the Company, professing, *That his maine End in coming to the City, was to revenge Pertinaxes Death, and to lay the Plot and Foundation of an Optimacie: promising that none but those which were condemned by Lawe, should lose Life or Goods: that hee would not tolerate Informers: that hee would make a happy and flourishing State, and in all things imitate Marcus; and not onely assume the Name, but the Minde of Pertinax.* With these faire Promises

\* Δεξιότης  
v. G.  
His Plausibility.

ses he stroked the Senators; most of them inclining to affect and believe him: but some of the elder and sager sort, that better knew his disposition, told them in their eare, that *hee was a right* <sup>His Censure.</sup> *Politician, full of tricks and traines, and an exquisite Dissembler and Temptraizer, for his owne end: As afterwards it proved.*

*Severus* intending but a short stay in *Rome*, gave to the Commons a magnificent Donative of Corne, and a great Largeesse to his Souldiers; selecting the ablest among them for his guard (in steed of those which were degraded.) And now he prepares an Expedition to the Orient; where *Niger* lay rusting (all this while) and revelling at *Antioch*; whom he hasted to surprize ere he were aware, and take him unprovided.

H

Com-

His prepara-  
tion for  
Warre.

Commanding therefore his Souldiers to make ready for that Voyage, and recollecting all his Forces, he adjoyned to them all the flowre of the Italian Youth; and gave order, that the rest of the Army in *Illyria* should come down to *Thrace*, and meet him on the way. He provided also, a great fleet of ships, & prest all the gallics of *Italy*, which he filled with Men at arms, & sent them a way: having amassed together, with incredible speed, a mighty magazin of all manner of provision & ammunition. For he well knew, hee needed more than ordinary Forces against the Nations bordering on *Europe*, which were all under *Niger's* command. Thus *Severus* \* gallantly prepared for the war. But withall, like a wise and provident man, he shrewdly misdeubted the British Armies, consisting of great & brave troops

\* *γεραιος*.

He is afraid  
of the Brit-  
taines

of more excellent \* Souldiers; <sup>\* μαγισ-  
τατος.</sup> whole Generall was *Albinus*; of very noble & honorable descent <sup>*Albinus*  
Governour  
of Britaine.</sup> & born to exceeding great welth and possessions. Him hee resolved to win by policie, lest otherwise being excited by his riches, noblenes, forces & renown (sharp and piquant motives to aspire to Sovereignty) he should attempt to overtop him & seize on *Rome* (w<sup>ch</sup> is not very far distant from *Britaine*) while himselfe were engaged in the Eastern wars. Now his bait to catch him, was by a glittering shew of honor; for being a credulous man, and none of the deepest Politicks, he presedly believed the oaths & protestations w<sup>ch</sup> he sent him by Letters: wherein he stiled him *Cesar*, anticipating his ambition, by communicating the soveraigne dignity. In the sayd courtly and comple-

He is stiled  
*Cesar* by  
*Severus*.

mentall lines, he besought him to bee Protector of the Empire, w<sup>ch</sup> stood in great need of so noble and brave a yong Gallant; as for himselfe, he was now grown old and gowtie, and his children were but infants. *Albinus* easily gave credit to him, and willingly took the honor upon him; being glad he attained his desire without battel, or further danger. To give the more glosse to his intentions, *Severus* acquainted the Senat with the passages; cōmanding also Coines to be stamped with his image; as also his statues to be erected; with all other Imperiall honors; the better to blanch his designs. Which having with high wisdom performed, & so lockt *Albinus* in *Britain*, that there was no feare of him; he gathered all the Illyrian Forces into one body, & now all things being in

readi-

readinesse, he leads his Army directly against *Niger*. What were his Stations by the way, what speeches he made to every city, what frequent prodigies\* by di-<sup>\* N. E. S. 1. 1. 1.</sup> vine providēce appeared; as also <sup>exp. 1. 1. 1.</sup> what countries he marched thorow, what conflicts hee had, and how many were slaine on either side, many Historians have related, & Poets especially have largely dilated; making *Severus*<sup>2</sup> acts the argument of their works. But my intendmēt is to compile a History of the acts of many Emperors reigning in the compasse of 70 <sup>Herodian</sup> yeares, w<sup>ch</sup> I certainly\* know to <sup>writes a</sup> be true. I shall therefore deliver <sup>History of</sup> part of the chiefeſt and choiſeſt <sup>70 yeares.</sup> actiōs of *Severus*<sup>2</sup>, not flattering, or <sup>\* As 2. 1. 1.</sup> faining more thā was performed <sup>Side.</sup> (like the Writers of that time) nor yet suppressing ought that is worthy to be knowne or recorded.

H 3                      H E.



## HERODIAN HIS IMPERIAL HISTORIE.

### *The third Booke.*

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**N**iger prepares for Warre. He fortifies Mount Taurus, and Byzantium. Æmilianus his General, defeated Severus Policie. He assaults Mount Taurus. Moores described. Alexandria. Battell betwixt Severus and Niger. Niger beheaded. Severus Plots against Albinus. His Speech against him. His strange Winter-march. Albinus sayles out of Britanie, and fights with Severus. The Britains fight bravely, and beat Severus off his Horse: They wane the first Battell: They drinke, and are merrie. Albinus beheaded. Severus his glorious Elogie.

*Elogie. Hee makes two Vicegerents in Britanie. His cruelty and covetousnesse. Secular Games every three hundredth yeare. Severus his Expedition into the East. He besieges Atræ, and is repulsed. His strange fortune. He surprises the Parthian King. He enters Rome in triumph. His Sonnes Dissentions. Plautian a mighty Favourite. His Treason, strangely detected. Hee is cut in pieces. Severus instructs his Sonnes. News from Britanie. Severus his Expedition thither. Description and Elogie of the Picts or Scots. Severus dies for griefe. Antonine's Cruelty. Severus Reliques, Antonine and Geta saile out of Britanie.*

**I**N the former Booke, we have related the Murther of Pertinax, the Slaughter of Julian, Severus his Expedition to Rome, and lastly his Preparations against Niger. As soone as Niger (who little expected such Newes) understood

*Niger prepares for Warre.*

that *Severus* had seized *Rome*; that the Senate had proclaimed him Emperour; and that all the Illyrian Armie, and other Forces were comming against him by Sea, and Land; being extreemely startled, hee warnes all the Vice-gerents of the Provinces, to set strong Guards at all Ports and Passages; and sends for *Ayd*, to the Parthian, Armenian, and Atre-  
 nian Kings. The Armenians answer was, that hee would bee Neutrall, and reserve his owne Forces to defend himselfe if *Severus* assayled him. The Parthian promises to write to his Nobles, to levie Souldiers (as his manner was intime of Warre.) For the Parthians have no ordinary standing Armies, nor any souldiers in continual pay. From the Atre-  
 nians came a Band of Archers,

Archers, sent from King *Barse-  
 mins*, who then raigned in those Parts. The grosse of his army he made up of the Souldiers which he had with him; most of the Countrey youths, but especial-  
 ly of the Antiochians, either out of their Levitie or Love to *Niger*; more boldly than wisely flocking unto him. The Straits and Precipices of Mount *Tau-  
 rus*, hee fortified with strong Walls and Munitions; accounting that impassable place, would  
 bee a Barricado to blocke up the Way to the Orient. For *Taurus* lifting up his Ridge between *Cappadocia* and *Cilicia*, dis-  
 severs the Eastern and Northern Nations. Hee put also a Garri-  
 son in *Byzantium*, the chiefest and mightiest Citie of *Thrace*, flourish-  
 ing at that time in strength and wealth; for being situ-  
 ate

Mount  
*Taurus* for-  
 tified.

*Byzantium*  
 now Con-  
 stantinople.



ate in the narrow Proponticke Sea, it reaped equall benefit by Water and Land; from the first, Impossa d Fish; from the latter, Corne and Fruit; as having a large and fertile Territory. This strong City he preoccupates to prevent the passage of *Severus* Flee, which was to sale out of *Europe* into *Asia*, through that narrow Chanell. The City was compass<sup>th</sup> with a huge strong wall, of squared Millstons, so curiously cemented, that it seemed to bee an in tre work made by Nature, rather than Art: yea, the very Ruines and Rubbish (which yet appeare) shew the marvellous skill of them that built it, and the stupendious strength of those that dismantled it.

In this manner did *Niger* order his Affaires, with singular Prudence and Providence (as he imagi-

imagined.) *Severus* on the other side, slackt not, but incessantly marched with his Armie. And being advertized that *Byzantium* was well manned and strongly fortifyed, he turnes his course to *Cyzicum*. *Emilianus* Emilianus Nigers Ge-  
nerall. Lieutenant of *Asia*, to whom *Niger* had committed the Manage of the Warre, and chiefe Command; hearing that *Severus* was marching, leades all the Forces which he had leaved, or were sent by *Niger*, directly to *Cyzicum*. When the Armies met on both sides, after divers bloody battels in those parts, *Severus* at last was Master of the Field; a great number of *Nigers* Soldier being routed, slaine, and put to flight. Which Successe Defeated by Severus. mightily encouraged the Illyrians, and the \*Esterlings. But \* Απαπαυ-  
αωv. many were of opinion, that from the

the beginning, *Niger* was betrayed by *Æmilian*; for these reasons. Some say, hee envied *Niger*, disdainning that hee, who was but his Successour in *Syria*, should now be his Superior, Emperor, and Sovereign. Others suppose, that hee was thereto perswaded by his Childrens Letters, who besought him to take care of their safety: for *Severus* having found them at *Rome*, put them in hold, out of deep policie, and early providence. And it was *Commodus* his manner to retaine with him their Children, whom hee sent to be Lieutenants of Provinces, as Pledges of their Allegiance and fidelity. Wherefore *Severus* (like a vigilant man) at his first Designement to the Empire in *Julians* time, sent secretly for his children out of the Citie, lest they should be afterward

*Severus* his  
Policie.

ward seized on. And at his coming to *Rome*, hee instantly apprehended all the Children of the Presidents, and other chiefe Captaines & Commanders that ruled in *Asia*, or the East, carrying thē with him as Prisoners, thereby to induce their Fathers to revolt from *Niger* (for their preservation) or if they continue firme to him, to let them know, that by killing them, he could be revenged on them at his pleasure.

*Nigers* Souldiers being overthrowne at *Cyzicum*, fled amaine; some to the Armenian Mountaines; others through *Asia*, and *Galatia*, hastning to Mount *Taurus*, to get into that strong Hold. *Severus* Armie marcht through the Country of *Cyzicum*, to the next region of *Bithynia*. When it was famed that *Severus* was victor suddenly all the Cities in those parts

Parts, fell to deadly Feud; not so much for Love or Hate to either Emperour, as out of a mortall Antipathie, and implacable Enmitie one to the other. And this was anciently the fault of the Greekes, who by their intestine broyles and conspiracies, to extirpate the most eminent men, have utterly undone *Greece*: whose Inhabitants (by their old grudge, and civill disasters) first became Vassals to the Macedons; and then Slaves to the Romans: the same heart-burning, and spightfull emulation, continuing in the best Cities to our time. Wherefore after these things hapned at *Cyzicum*, the Citizens of *Nicomedia* in *Bithynia*, revolted from *Niger* to *Severus*, promising him (by their Embassadors) to receive his Armie, and assist him in all things.

But

But the Citizens of *Nicaea*, out of their malignity to them, took *Nigers* part, and enttayned his Souldiers, which either fled thither, or were sent to defend *Bithynia*. Out of these two Cities (as severall Camps) the Armies of both sides issuing, fought againe; but after a terrible battell, *Severus* got the Victory. From thence the Remaines of *Nigers* Forces fled to the Straits of Mount *Taurus*, to defend those Fortifications. *Niger* having left there as many as he thought sufficient to make good the Place, returnes to *Antioch*, to raise more Men and Money. Meane while, *Severus* Armie passing through *Bithynia*, and *Galatia*, marcht into *Cappadocia*: and there began to assaile the Fortification. But they met with no small difficulties; for the passage was extreme rough

Mount  
Taurus as-  
sayled.

rough and craggie, and the Enemy which was on the Walls, and over their heads, tumbled downe Stones upon them, and fought bravely; a few men serving to repell a great Number. For the Ascent was exceeding strait, being defended on the one side with a huge steepe Mount, on the other with a wonderfull Precipice, downe which fell continuall Cataracts from the top of the Mountaines. *Niger* had also made there a strong Fort to barre their Entrance on every side. During this Assault in *Cappadocia* there arose Mutinies upon the like Grounds and Grudges as afore-said. For *Laodicea* in *Syria* (in despite of *Antiochia*) and *Tyres* in *Phœnicia* (repining at the *Egyptians*) when they heard of *Nigers* Discomfiture, defaced his Images,

Images, and proclaimed *Severus* Emperour: which *Niger* (then at *Antioch*) understanding, though (otherwise) of a milde disposition, yet stung with those opprobrious Injuries and Defections, sends against both the Cities all the \* *Mauritanian* \* Mauritania, now Fez and Morocco. Darters that he had, and part of his Archers, charging them to kill all afore them, and to sacke and burn the Cities. The *Moors* The Moors described. (who are naturally bloody and desperate, regarding neither death nor danger) suddenly invading the *Laodiceans*, put them all to the Sword, and destroyed their Towne. Thence marching to *Tyre*, they first pillag'd it, and then cruelly slaughtering the Inhabitants, set it on a bright blaze. While this passes in *Syria* and *Niger* is levying new Supplies, the *Severians* persist in their Affair.

assailment of the Fort of Mount *Taurus*, but with much wan hope and great discouragement; for it was an impregnable Worke, and naturally defended with the Mount, and Precipice. Being quite wearyed, and their Enemies now secure; extraordinary Stormes and Snowes fell suddenly in the Night (for in *Capadocia*, and especially at Mount *Taurus*, Winters are ex reame rough) accompanied with a vehement and impetuous Torrent; which being checkt by the Fortification, became more furious and violent. At last, Nature vanquishing Art, and the Wall yielding to the deluge, the floud (having sapte the Foundation, which was made in haste, and not so carefully as was requisite) bore downe all before it, and made an exceeding great breach:

breach: which the Defendants perceiving, & fearing that when the Waters were downe, they should be surprized by the Enemy, they all quit the place, and fled. With this Accident, the *Severians* were infinitely cheered and animated (as lead by divine providence) and seeing also the Guardians of the Mount were fled, they easily scaled it, and entered *Cilicia*. When *Niger* heard these Tidings, he gathered a vast Armie of undisciplined & inexpert Souldiers: & marching with maine speed, was followed with huge numbers of people, and almost all the Youth of *Antioch*, who exprest great alacrity, but were not comparable to the *Illyrians* for Valour or Experience. At the Bay of \* *Iffas*, the Armies met, in a goodly spacious Plaine, which lying under a row

\* A Citie called by *Alexander Nicopolis*, for his Victory there.

a row of Hills, Theatre-wise, is extended all along the Seacoast; Nature having here made (as it were) a Stage for a battell. In the very same place they say that *Darius* was overthrowne and taken by *Alexander* in the last great Battell; the \* Northerne Men then also vanquishing the Easterne. The Citie *Alexandria* (built on a Hill) the Trophie and Monument of that Victory, yet remaines; and the brazen Image of him that so named it. Now it fell out that the Hosts of *Severus* and *Niger* did not onely encounter in the sayd place, but also with like fortune [to the other:] For on both sides were they ready to fight in the Evening, not sleeping all Night for Care and Feare. At Sunrising, the Generalls encouraged their Souldiers, who as-

\*In Nature the Northerne Regions are most Martiall.  
*Alexandria.*

The Battell betwixt *Severus* and *Niger*.

failed each other with incredible fury; as accounting that the last Fatall Conflict; and that Fortune would there designe the Emperour. After a long and grim Fight, there being on each side so great Slaughter, that the Rivers which rannethrough the Plaine, sent much more bloud than water into the Sea; at last the Orientalls turned their backs and fled, the Illyrians pursuing them to the Sea (where they thrust them in with woundes) and to the Hill-tops, where they slew them, together with a great number of people, assembled there out of the adjoining towns and villages, as Spectatours of the battell; supposing they were safe in that high ground. *Niger* being bravely mounted, poasted with a few of his Followers to *Antioch*; where the people flying

flying every way, and piteously bewayling their sonnes and brethren; hee also grew desperate, and betooke himselfe to flight; but being found hid in a Suburban house, by the Horlemen that pursued him, his Head was stricke off.

*Niger* be-headed.

This end had *Niger*, being brought to that Disaster, by his dull protracting of time; though otherwise he were (as they say) in his publike and private carriage not culpable.

*Niger* being slaine, *Severus* presently put to death all his friends and Partizans, whether Voluntaries, or compelled to assist him. Yet he pardoned the Souldiers which were fled (for feare) to the Barbarians beyond the River *Tigris*; and received them into favour. For great numbers of them retired into those parts, whereby

whereby it came to passe, that the Barbarians were afterwards more able to incounter the Romanes in set battell; their manner of Fight, before that time, being onely with bowes and arrowes on horseback, without compleat Armour; having no skill to use Sword, or Lance; but clad with thinne loose Garments, they shot their Arrowes (most part) backewards, flying from their Enemies. But when diverse Romane Souldiers, and (among them) many Armourers, which fled thither, had set up their Rests there; the Barbarians learned not onely to use Armes, but also to make them.

*Severus* having settled the Affaires of the Orient to his owne contentment, had a strong desire to invade the Dominions of the  
Atreman

Atrenian and Parthian Kings, who were both *Nigers* Confederates. But deferring that till another time, he cast about, how he might now establish the Roman Empire on himselfe and his Sonnes. For *Niger* being taken away, the only Rub that remayned was *Albinus*, whom he held to be altogether unprofitable for his Purpose, and incompatible to his designs. Besides, the Report was, that his Caesarian Title had so puffed up his spirits, that he beganne to fare like an Emperour; and that many of the chiefe Peeres of the Senate had secretly writ to him to hasten to *Rome*, while *Severus* was absent, & elsewhere ingaged. And indeed all the Nobles were most devoted to *Albinus*; who was very honorably descended; and reputed to bee of a sweet  
and

generous Disposition. Of all which passages *Severus* having got intelligence, resolved not instantly to make open warre against him; or proclame him his enemy (there being no just cause or colour for it) but to trie if he could make him away by treacherie. Wherefore hee dispatched to him diverse trusty persons, which (as Poasts) used to carry the Emperors Letters and Missives, giving them in charge, that after they had publickly delivered the Packets, they should desire him to understand some further secrets in private; and when he was apart from his guard suddenly to fall upon him, & kill him. Moreover, he delivered to them divers sorts of poysons, to be ministered to him by some of his Carvers or Cup bearers, if they could perswade them. But

*Severus*  
plotting first  
*Albinus*.



*Albinus* his friends mistrusting *Severus*, gave him many caveats to beware him as a fraudulent and insidious person: For his fame was foully blasted by his ill dealing with *Nigers* Captains; whom having underwrought by their Children (as wee formerly shewed) to betray *Nigers* Affaires, when he had made use of their Service, and attained his owne ends, hee slew both them and their Children. By these Actions of his, they manifested to him his dangerous disposition. *Albinus* thereupon doubled his Guards, and admitted not to his presence any messenger from *Severus*, till he had laid by his military Fauchin, and was also searcht, lest he had any other Weapon in his bosome.

And now were *Severus* his poasts arrived at *Albinus*\* Court, where deli-

\* In Britain

delivering their Letters openly, they besought him to step aside, to heare some speciall Secrets. *Albinus* suspecting them, commands them to be apprehended. Then, secretly torturing them, he learnt out all their treachery, and put them to death; and made preparation against *Severus*, as a professed Enemy. Which *Severus* understanding, being of a violent spirit and irefull nature, he no longer concealed his Enmity, but assembling all his Army, spake thus.

*Severus* his Speech against  
*Albinus*.

**L** Et none, reflecting on my former Actions, tax me of Levity, Treachery, or Ingratitude, towards my reputed friend. I could doe no more than associat him (by a firme League) in the Imperiall Government: which some man would hardly doe to his own

brother. Yea, I communicated to him  
that, which you conferred on me alone.  
But Albinus unworthily requites these  
extraordinary Favours which I have  
heaped upon him. For he is now up in  
Armes against Us, contemning your  
valour; and not regarding his League  
with me. For he seekes with insatia-  
ble Desire, to ingrosse, that with his  
owne perill, which hee securely enjoyed  
by a peacefull Participation. Nei-  
ther doth he revere the Gods by whom  
hee hath so oft sworne; nor respects he  
your travells, which with so great glo-  
ry and courage you have undertaken  
for Vs both. For the fruits of your hap-  
py successe extended likewise to him.  
Yea, had he continued faithfull to us,  
we had done him greater honour, than  
was yet imparted to him. Now as to  
doe ill \* Offices, is an act of Injustice;  
So, not to redresse a Wrong, is \* un-  
manly. In our Wars against Niger, our  
Quarrell was not so just, as necessary.  
For he sought not to embrace the Im-  
periall dignity invested in our person;  
but the Empire lying then at stake, and  
being yet litigious, both of Vs with  
equall

equal Ambition, fairly wrestled for it. But Albinus violating Leagues and Oaths; makes choice rather to be an Enemy than a Friend, and to wage Warre rather than continue in amity; being advanced by our meere bounty to that eminent \* Honor, which <sup>\* Title of Caesarim-  
plyd Hie  
apparatid.</sup> anciently appertayned to the sacred Branches of the Imperiall Stemme. Wherefore as wee have formerly ennobled him with great and glorious Advancements: So now wee hold it meet, to chastise his ignoble Treachery by force of Armes. As for his poore Army of \* Islanders; it is impossible <sup>\* Britaines</sup> it should resist your Puissance. For since you alone, by your owne Valour and admirable Prowesse, have wonne so many Battells, and conquered all the Orient: who can doubt but that now by ascesse of so many gallant men at Armes (for here are almost all the Roman Forces) you shall easily rout a small Number, led by One that hath neither Wit nor Courage? For who knows not his Voluptuary life, fitter for a Swine than a Souldier? Let us therefore \* bravely ad- <sup>\* Horatius.</sup> vance

vance against him, with our wonted alacrity and magnanimity : having the Gods for our Guides, whom hee hath dishonoured with Perjuries; and calling to mind the many Trophies wee have erected, which hee so highly scornes.

Severus having thus sayd, the whole Army proclaimed *Albinus* Traytor, but making full Demonstration of their loyall zeale to him, by their Acclamations; they mightily encouraged him, and made him wondrous confident. Whereupon rewarding them with magnificent donatives, he tooke his Iourney against *Albinus*. Withall he sent certaine Troops to invest *Byzantium*, which was yet held by *Nigers* Souldiers that fled thither. Which Citie was afterward taken by Famine, and razed to the Ground; insomuch

*Byzantium* invested.

that

that the Theaters, Therms, and all the splendor and glory thereof being quite defaced, it was reduced to a meane \* Village, and given in vassalage to the Perinthians, as *Antioch* in like sort to the *Laodiceans*. Further, hee consigned great summes of money for the reedifying of the Cities spoyled by *Nigers* Souldiers. And now marching without any \* Intermision, or regard to holi-dayes, or workedayes, heat or cold (all being alike to him) he would oft in that stormy season, goe bare-headed on the tops of Mountaines, when it sharply snowed; to excite his Souldiers to Patience and Alacrity, by his owne Example; so that they cheerefully indured all difficulties, not so much for feare of law, as in a generous emulation of their royall Chiefe. He

I 4 sent

\* The Fate of *Roche*: now *S. Mary Village*.

\* *Severus* watchword was *Laboremus*

His Winter-march.

sent also a strong Army to seize the Alpine Straits, and to forelay the passages into *Italy*.

*Albinus*, who (this while) pursued his pleasures, and was supinely negligent, when he heard that *Severus* was marching with such expedition; being startled with the horror of the newes, presently sailes out of *Britaine*, and disembarks his Armie in the opposite Coasts of *Gallia*; where he lend his *Mandates* to all Governors of the adjacent Provinces, to furnish him with Money and Viſtualls. They which did so, dealt very unadvisedly, for they were plagued for it, when the Warre was ended; but they that refused (rather by good hap than foresight) saved themselves: the Event and \* Fortune of the Warre determining who were the wiser.

*Severus*

*Severus* Forces being entred *Gallia*, there were first certaine light Skirmishes in divers parts; but at last, they fought a pitch Field, neere the great and rich City *Lugdunum*; where *Albinus* immuring himselfe, sent forth his Armie to fight. The Encounter was exceeding fierce; and doubtful it was a great while which way the Victory would incline; For the BRITAINES were no whit inferior to the Illyrians in \* Manhood, or Martiall fury. Both Armies fighting with equall bravery, it was hard to say, which would get the better. Divers Historians (of that Time) which more regarded verity than partiality, report that *Albinus* his Army was \* *farre* *superiour* in that Part, which was incountred by *Severus* in Person, with his Battalion;

I s inſomuch

Battell betweene *Severus* and *Albinus*.

*Britains* Elogie.

\* *ἀνδρεία*  
τῆς τοῦ πολεμίου

\* *πολλὴ*  
ἐξουσία.

The Brit-  
taines beat  
the bravest  
Martialist  
of the  
world.

\* Hymnes  
sung to  
Mars before  
Batell, to  
Apollo after  
Victory.

insomuch, that *Himselfe* was put  
to flight, and beaten off his Horse,  
yea forced to throw off his Imperall  
Cloake, and hide Himselfe. While  
the Brittaines follow the Chase,  
chanting out their \* Pæans, as  
Victors; *Latius* one of *Severus*  
Commanders, suddenly charges  
them with fierce & fresh troops.  
Hee was harshly censured, as if  
hee purposely kept aloofe, and  
reserved that choice Regiment  
to get the Empire to himselfe:  
intending then to take the Field,  
when he heard *Severus* was slain.  
Which suggestion was fortified  
by the event. For when *Severus*  
had settled all things to his owne  
minde, and secured his estate, he  
richly rewarded all his other  
Chieftaines; but remembering  
how *Latius* had served him, hee  
put him to death, as he deserved.  
These things were done after-  
wards.

wards. Now when *Latius* came  
in view (as aforesaid) with a new  
supply; the *Severians* took heart  
again, and remounting *Severus*  
on Horsebacke, put on his Pur-  
ple \* Surcoat. The *Albinians*, \* A militia-  
that (presuming they were Ma- ry Mantle.  
sters of the Field) had \* disban- \* So the  
ded themselves; being sudden- dis-rank-  
ly and furiously charged by fresh of the En-  
Companies; after a short resi- glish lost all  
stance, fled; the *Severians* fol- to the *Sev-*  
lowing the execution to the Ci- mans.  
ty gates. The Number of the  
slaine, and captives, on either  
side, is differently related by the  
Writers of that Age. The City  
\* *Lugdunum* was sackt and burnt \* Lyons in  
by the *Severians*; who having France.  
took *Albinus*, struck off his head, *Albinus* be-  
and presented it to *Severus*. headed.

Thus raised he two most state- \* Monu-  
ly Trophies; One, in the East; ments of  
and Another, in the North; Victory  
so usuall in  
that those parts.

Severus the  
greatest  
Conqueror  
of the  
World.

that Nothing is comparable to *Severus* conflicts, or conquests, either for multitude of Forces, commotion of Countries, number of Battells, length of Iourneyes, or speede in Marches. I confesse, *Cæsars* Acts against *Pompey* (the Souldiers being Romans on either side) were very great; as also that of *Augustus* against *Antony* and *Pompey's* Sonnes; and likewise the Exploits of *Sylla* and *Marius*, in the civill and forraigne warres. But for *One Man* to have the killing of *Three Enthronized Emperours*; to surprise the Pretorian Troops at *Rome* by finenesse of Wit; to kill *One Emperour* in the Pallace Royall; to defeat another, that raigned in the Orient, and was elected Emperour by the Romanes; and to vanquish a *Thiud*, that was a *Cæsar*,

*Cæsar*, of great Nobility and Dependencie; you shall hardly finde the like. To this End came *Albinus*, having injoyed his Fatall Dignity but a short time.

And now was *Severus* full charged with wrath and indignation against *Albinus* Friends at *Rome*; whither he sent his head, commanding it to be publicly affixt on the Gallowes. And in the Letters which he writ to the People of his Victories, he added this *Post-script*; that *He there sent them his Head, strictly charging, that it bee publicly set on the Gibbet, to the end, they might perceive by that Token of his Wrath, how highly hee was offended with them.*

Having Ordered the State of *Britaine*, and divided the government of the Province into two

\* Prefi-

Two Vice-<sup>\* royes in</sup> President-ships; and having  
<sup>Britaine.</sup> likewise composed the Gallicke  
<sup>\* ἐγεμονίας</sup> Affaires to his owne minde, and  
 slaine all *Albinus* Friends and  
 Partners, whether voluntary or  
 forced; he set forward towards  
*Rome*; leading all his Army thi-  
 ther, to strike the greater ter-  
 rour. His Iourney being ended,  
 with extraordinary speed (as his  
 manner was) and being full of  
 fury against *Albinus* Friends that  
 survived, hee enters *Rome*. The  
 Commons met him with Lau-  
 rels, and received him with all  
 honour and joyful acclamation.  
 The Senatours also congratula-  
 ted him, though many of them  
 were extreamly afrajd that hee  
 would not pardon them; being  
 so apt by reason of his Na-  
 turall Immanity, to oppresse  
 Men on the least Occasion;  
 and having now so probable  
 pre-

pretences to question them.

*Severus* having visited *Jupiters*  
 Temple, and performed other  
<sup>\* ιερουργίας.</sup> Sacred Rites, went to his Roy-  
 all Palace, and in honour of his  
 Victories, bestowed great store  
 of Corne on the Citizens, and  
 much Coyne on his Soulders,  
 to whom he granted many Pri-  
 viledges which formerly they  
 had not. For hee first augmen-  
 ted their proportion of Wheat,  
 and permitted them to weare  
 Gold Rings, and cohabit with  
 their Wives; all which were  
 reputed utterly dissonant from  
 Military austerity, and Martiall  
 dispositions. But he was the first  
 that altered their strong and  
 manly Diet, and subverted all  
 Order, Discipline, and Obedi-  
 ence to Governours; by tea-  
 ching them to hunt after Mo-  
 ney, and using them to delicate  
 Farc,

\* Or, Parliament-house.

\* Niger.

Severus cruelty and covetousnes.

Fare. Having made these Ordinances (after his owne fancie) he entred the \* Senat-house, where ascending his Royall Throne, hee made a bitter Invective against *Albinus* Friends, producing the secret letters of some of them, which hee found in his Cabinets; and objecting to others, that they had honoured him with the richest Presents; to these, that they had favoured his Eastern \* Enemies; to those, that they were *Albinus* Favourites. Then he put to death all the chiefe Peeres of the Senate; and slew without mercie all that were of great Estate and Nobility in the Provinces: pretending to suppress his Enemies; but spurred on (indeed) by extreme Avarice; wherein he exceeded all the Emperours. For, as in Haughtinesse of Spirit, hard-

hardnesse to indure labour, and Skill in Martiall affaires, he was equall to the worthiest: So was hee an unmeasurable Lover of Money; which hee accumulated by cruell Slaughters, upon the least Cause or Colour; ruling his Subjects rather by feare than love. Nevertheless, hee affected popular Lustre, by frequent exhibiting most stately Shewes (of all Sorts) where were oft slain an hundred beasts brought from strange countries. Hee distributed also magnificent Donatives to the people, and ordayned a Triumphall \* *Agon*, \* Game, or sending for Actors and Champions from all parts. I have seene (in his Time) Shewes of all kindes of Pageants in all the Theaters at once; as also processions and vigils (like *Ceres* my- Secular steries.) These were then called Games.

His Popularity.

Exercise of Manhood.

Secular Games.

See.



*V. Alex. ab*  
*Alex. Gen.*  
*dier. l. 6.*  
*c. 19.*

*Secular Solemnities*, because they were celebrated (as they sayd) after the Tearme of three Ages or Generations. What time, Bedles went thorow *Rome* and *Italy*, to invite All to come and see those \* *Shewes which they had never scene before, nor should ever after see*: Intimating thereby, that the inter-space betwixt the past and present Celebrity, exceeded the longest Age of Men,

\* Instituted  
in honour  
of *Apollo*  
and *Diana*  
(the *Sunne*  
and *Moone*)

Having stayd a sufficient time at *Rome* (where he associated his Sonnes in the Sovereignty, and declared them Emperours) considering that his former Victories were over his owne Countrey-men and the Romane Armies (for which cause he forbore Triumph) he determined to get himselfe honour by a glorious Conquest of the Barbarians. His pretext was, to be revenged  
on

on *Barfemius* the *Atrenian* King, for his Confederacie with *Niger*. Whereupon he lead his army into the Orient, and as hee was about to enter *Armenia*, the King of the Armenians sent him Money, Presents and Hostages; humbly intreating to contract a League of Amitie with him. *Severus* seeing all things happen to his mind in *Armenia*, marches against the *Atrenians*. But *Augarus* King of the *Osroens* submitted himselfe to him, and having assured his Homage, by delivering his children for pledges, sent to his Ayd a goodly Band of Archers. *Severus* having passed the Region lying betwixt the Rivers and the Country of the *Albenians*, made a Rode into *Arabia Felix*, where growe those odorate Herbes which wee use for Spicerie and  
Fran-

*Severus* his  
second Ex-  
pedition in-  
to the East.

Archers.

Siege of  
*Atræ.*

Frankincense. Having destroyed many Cities and villages, and wasted the Countrey, he entered the Land of the Atrenians, and beleaguered *Atræ*, a City mounted on the top of an exceeding high Hill, strongly walled and fortified, well manned and full of excellent Archers. *Severus* army incamping before it, made many furious Assaults, striving with all their strength to master it; to which purpose, they assailed the Walls with all sorts of warlike Engines; pretermittting no kinde of Invasion. But the Atrenians made a brave Resistance, and with Shot and Stones from above, did much hurt to the *Severians*. They filled also Earthen Vessells with small Fowles and Venomous beasts, which being cast among them, and lighting on their Faces,

Faces, and other open parts of their bodies, crawled all over them, and secretly stung and tormented them. Moreover, they were not able to indure the stifling Aire of that extreame hot Clime, which cast them into strange Calentures; so that the most part of the Armie dyed rather by that meanes, than by the Enemy. Whereupon, the Souldiers growing desperate at that luckelesse Siege (where the Romans lost more than they got) *Severus* discamped, and departed without Effect, lest all his Men should perish: being much grieved that the successe of the Siege was not answerable to his desire. For having bene wont to get the Victory in all encounters, he now reputed himself overcome, because he could not overcome. But Fortune soone

soone after smiled on him, and advanced his Designes; so that hee lost not all his labour, but fared better than hee expected. For his Army being imbarqued was not brought to the Romane Territories (as hee intended) but was hurried by the violent Streame to the Parthian banks; not many dayes journey from *Ctesiphon*; where was the royall Palace of the King of *Parthia*, who lived there in peace; esteeming *Severus* warres against the the *Atrenians*, to concerne him nothing at all. In which security he little thought of any Disaster. *Severus* Host arriving there against their wills, by the violence of the Current; presently landed, and immediately fell a syoyling & ravaging the Countrey; driving away all the Cattel they met with, for Provision,

*Severus*  
strange fortune.

*Si vis securus esse, time securitatem.* S. Bernard.

on; and burning all the Towns (as they went.) Then marcht they to *Ctesiphon*, where the great King *Artabanus* was resiant, and finding the Barbarians unprovided, they slew every man they found, pillaged the City, and led captive all the women and children. The King, with a few Horsemen, escaped: but they rifled his Treasures, and taking all his Ornaments and Jewells, returned to their Ships. Thus got *Severus* the victory over the Parthians rather by chance than choicc. And now having sped so happily beyond all hope, hee sent \* Letters to the Romane Peeres and People, containing a glorious Relation of his Acts; accompanied with painted Tables, representing all his Battels and Conquests. Hereupon the Senate decreed to him all triumphant

King of  
*Parthia*  
surprised.

\* Dight  
with Laurel, as Con-  
querors u-  
sed.

umphant Honours, and the Surnames of the Nations hee had vanquished.

*Severus* having composed the Orientall Affaires, took his way towards *Rome*, bringing with him his Sonnes, who were now big Youths. Having ended his Journey, ordered the Provinces (as was requisite) and visited the

\* *Myfia*,  
now *Servia*  
and *Bulgaria*.

*Severus*  
Triumph.

\* *Myfian* and *Pannonian* Armies, he entered the City in Triumph; the Romanes receiving him with great Acclamations and glorious Ceremonies. Hee againe entertained them with Feasts, Sports, Spectacles, and Pageants; giving them Royall Donatives, and solacing them with Triumphall Shewes. Hee abode many yeares in *Rome*, where he wholly gave himselfe to Matters of Iudicature, and State-affaires; indeavouering to

traine

traine his Sonnes in all noble Studies and Exercises. But they being well-growne Youths, had their Dispositions corrupted by the *Romane* Diet and Delices; as also by the excessive frequenting of Stage-playes, Charriot-sports, and Revells. Moreover, the Brethren fell at variance, one with the other; their first quarrell being about the childish desire of Victory at Quaille-fights, Cock-fights, and the wrestling of boyes. Yea whatsoever they saw or heard in publicke, they were still divided; never affecting the same thing; but what the one applauded, the other scorned. Which Discord was fomented by both their servants and flatterers; who\*collogued with them for their owne ends. *Severus* understanding their differences, assaied to recōcile them and reduce

His Sonnes  
diffentions.

\* *flatterers*  
or *servants*.

K

them

them to better temper. The  
 \* *γνήσιον*. elder of them (whose \*Genuine  
 Name was *Bassian*, before his  
 Advancement to the Imperiall  
 Family) *Severus* after his Inau-  
 guration in the Empire, named  
*Antonine*; which was the Sir-  
 name of *Marcus*. To him hee  
 gave a wife; hoping that \**Mar-*  
 \* *γαμωσω*. *riage* would make him a stayd  
*εφενίσσα* man. Shee was the Daughter  
*σελων*. of *Plautian*, Captaine of the Pre-  
 torian Bands, who was (as they  
 say) but of meane estate in his  
 youth, and proscribed for Sedi-  
 tion, and other Crimes. Hee  
 was *Severus* his Countymate (an  
 African borne) and (by report)  
 his Kinsman: and (as some have  
 taxed him) in his younger yeares  
 his Caramite. Him *Severus* ad-  
 vanced from very low degree, to  
 great dignity; enriching him ex-  
 ceedingly with the Goods and  
 Lands

Lands of condemned Persons,  
 and almost shewing the \**Severus*  
 pire with him. Whereof hee  
 Fortunes he abused, and by  
 cioufnesse; omitting no cruelty  
 or outrage, to compass his de-  
 signes; being more Tyrannical-  
 ly sterne, than all the Princes  
 that ever were. To his Daugh-  
 ter did *Severus* match his Sonne,  
 and unite his House to his.

But *Antonine* taking small joy  
 in those Nuptialls, where hee  
 was forcibly yoaked, without  
 any præelection of his owne,  
 infinitely hated both the young  
 Lady and her Father; scorning  
 to lodge or cohabite with her;  
 yea, hee so loathed her, that hee  
 daily menaced to kill her and  
 her Father, as soone as hee were  
 sole Emperour. Which when  
 she still told her Father, shewing  
 him how hee abhorred her, hee  
 K 2 mighti-

*Plautian*  
the mighti-  
est Favou-  
rite of the  
World.

\* *Vit. Alex.*  
*ab Alex. l. 5.*  
*cap. 18.*

mightily stomackt it. *Plautian* therefore considering that *Severus* was now growne old and diseased, and that *Antonine* was a bold fierce Youth, he feared his Threats, and resolved to doe some Exployt, rather than suffer himselfe to bee made away. Moreover, he had many provocatives to aspire to Sovereignty: such excessive wealth, as never any Subject had the like: Marti- all men were all at his becke: the whole Romane State highly honoured him: yea his ordinary Garbe made him very gracious with the people; for hee still wore the Senatorian robe,\* pur- fled and embrodered with Gol- den Studds, and was ranked with the prime Nobility. A Sword was borne before him, and hee alone represented the Emperors Person. Hee walked abroad with

with such terrible Majestie, that none durst come neere him; and if any met him (by chance) they stept aside: his Gentlemen Vihers making Proclamation, that None should stand in the way, nor looke at him; but turne aside, and looke downewards. When *Severus* understood this, he dis- gusted it, and beganne to thinke harshly of him; inso much that hee clipt the Wings of his Au- thority; commanding him to leave that insolent Demeanour. *Plautian* taking this as an intol- lerable Affront, fell roundly to surprise the Empire: And this was his Plot: There was one *Saturninus* that had a Tribunes \* place under him, and was ex- ceedingly devoted to *Plautian*; and though all were intirely his, yet hee by his singular ve- neration, had wonne his Affe- ction

His treason

\* The com-  
mand of  
1000 foot-  
souldiers.

dior more than the rest. Thinking him to be a most trusty fellow, and the onely Engine for his secret Designes; hee sends for him in the Evening; and all being commanded to voyd the roome, spake thus to him.

**N**ow is the time for you to make a brave Consummation of the love and observance you have professed, and for me likewise to render to you according to your Merits, and to make condigne retribution. I put it to your choice, either to be as you see me now, and to succeed mee in this eminent place; or instantly to suffer death for refusing my Command. Let not the greatnesse of the Enterprise affright, nor the Name of Emperours amaze you. When it comes to your turne this Night to relieve the Watch, you may goe alone to the Bed-chamber, and what you are to doe, you may secretly effect without any let. Goe your wayes therefore to the Court (without any more adoe) as if you had some speciall  
secret

*secret Message from me: and as soone as you come at them, kill them. Bee resolute (Man) you may soon dispatch an Old man, and a Boy. And as you partake the danger; so shall you participate the greatest honour, for so gallant an Expleyt.*

At this Speech the Tribune was not a little confused; yet recollecting himselfe, and being a notable shrewd pated Fellow (for he was a Syrian borne, and your Easterne Men are generally wise, and of quicke \* sent) he considered, that to reject the motion of so mighty a Potentate, being in so great rage, were present death: wherefore pretending that hee infinitely liked the Businesse, he adored him as Emperour, beseeching his Warrant for the Execution: (For it was the manner of Tyrants, when they commanded any to be slain

\*In warme Climates people are generally more wise.

(without Iudiciall Processe) to signe a Warrant to that purpose, for the Actors discharge.) *Plautian*, blinded with ambition, delivers his Warrant to the Tribune, strictly charging him, that as soone as hee had killed both the Princes, before it were noyed abroad, he should send some to call for him, that hee might seize the Palace and Empire, before any man dreamt of it. With this charge and commission, the Tribune departs, and as hee was wont, walks the Round through all the Emperours Pallace; and knowing how difficult a thing it were for one man to kill two Princes in severall Lodgings, he intends to disclose all to *Severus*; and desired the Doore-keepers to let him in, for it concerned his Life. They delivering the Message to *Severus*, hee commands

mands them to bring him in. Being entred in, hee thus said: *Sir, I am come (as he that sent mee <sup>Saturninus</sup> makes full account) to kill you, as <sup>detests</sup> your Deaths man; but as my selfe <sup>Plautian</sup> resolve and vowe to bee a Preserver of your Life. Plautian trayterously aspiring to the Empire, hath commanded mee to murder You and your Sonne, not onely by Word, but also by Writing; (Witnesse this Schedule.) And accordingly I undertook to execute his Command, but upon my Refusall, some other should have attempted it. This I come to certifie your Majestie, that you may avoyd him. The Tribune having done, fell a weeping. But *Severus* could not instantly credite it: For *Plautian's* Love had taken deep root in his heart; and hee suspected it to bee a meere Illusion, and cunning Imposture; imagining that his son*

K 5

[the



[the Prince] out of his hatred to *Plantian* and his daughter, had devised this stratagem & deadly \*flander. wherefore instantly sending for him, he sharply rebuked him, for plotting such things against his deare bosome-friend. *Antoninus* swore deeply he knew nothing of it. The Tribune producing *Plantians* Warrant, *Antonine* encouraged him to detect the Crime. The Tribune perceiving his owne Danger, and well-knowing how gracious *Plantian* was with the Emperor (so that if now hee made not good his Charge, he should bee put to a cruell death) sayd thus; Sir, what clearer prooffe or stronger Evidence can you desire? yet if you will give mee leave to goe out of the Pallace, and send a trusty Messenger to him, to let him know that I have done his Command, hee will present-

presently believe it, and repaire hither to seize the Pallace. So may you learne out the Truth. Onely command all in the Court to be quiet, that there may bee no intelligence given to prevent the Plot. This being agreed, he sends a speciall friend to *Plantian*, to bid him come quickly (now both Princes were slaine) before it were blazed abroad; that possessing the \* Ca- \*ακροπό-  
sle, and feeling himselfe in the λεως.  
Empire, he might get the Sovereignty in despite of all men. *Plantian* believing the Message, was full of hope, and putting on a Cuirace (for defence) under his Garments (the night being well spent) he posted in his Carroach to the Court, taking but a few with him, that supposed the Emperours had sent for him about extraordinary Affaires. Being entered the Royall pallace, with-  
out

*Plautian*  
the Traitor  
betrayed.

out any stop (the Corps de guard knowing nothing of the busines) the Tribune meets him, and (of set purpose) salutes him Emperour; then taking him by the hand in friendly sort, he leades him to the Chamber, where he said hee had throwne the dead bodies of the Emperours; (*Severus* having appointed some of his Guard, as soone as hee entered the roome, to lay hands on him.) But *Plautian* (who little expected such a banquet) perceiving (when he was come into the Chamber) both the Emperours standing there, and that hee was taken in the manner, being horribly afraid, fell on his knees, and sought them not to misdeeme him; saying it was a meere Gull and Tricke put upon him. *Severus* exprobrating his Ingratitude, in rewarding

ding his many Honours and Favours in that sort; and *Plautian* on the other side remembering him of his ancient love and approved Fidelity, the Emperour beganne by little and little to incline to believe him; till his Cuirace was discerned by the opening of his Garment. Which *Anonine* espying, being a bold chollericke Youth, and bearing a grudge against him; Sir (quoth he) what colourable answer can you make to these two poynts? First you come to Vs (thus late) unsent for. Next, what is the meaning I pray of this Cuirace? who uses to sup or banquet in Armour? With that hee commands the Tribune, and the rest that were present, to dispatch him with their swords, as an open enemy. They (without dilay) did as the young

*Plautian*  
slaine.

young Emperour bade them, and threw his carcasſe into the High-way, to bee the ſcorne of them that hated him.

This end had *Plautian*, anſwerable to his exorbitant Life and Inſatiate Ambition. *Severus* henceforth made two Pretorian Prefects, and ſpent moſt of his Time in his Royall houſes in the Suburbs, or in the Sea-coaſt of \* *Campania*, miniſtring † Juſtice, and attending State-Affaires. Hee was alſo exceeding carefull to have his Sonnes at *Rome*, bred in honourable faſhion. For he perceived they were more addicted to Playes and Games, than was agreeable to their Princely eſtate. The purſuit whereof, and their eager deſire to win, being ſtill accompanied with different ſucceſſe, and vehement altercation, distracted the

\* The Region betwixt *Rome* and *Naples*.  
† *Severus* was a good Law-giver. *S. Aur. Viſi. de Caſar.*

the Brethrens affections, and inflamed them with Fire-brands of enmity and diſcord. But *Antonine* eſpecially (now *Plautian* was made away) beganne to be intolerable in his behaviour, and formidable to all; uſing all poſſible meanes to deſtroy his wife, daughter to *Plautian*. But *Severus* ſent her away with her brother into *Sicilie*, aſſigning them ſufficient Maintenance to live plentifully (imitating *Augustus*, who dealt in like ſort with *Antonius* ſonnes, when he became his Enemy.)

And now he mainly laboured to reconcile his Sonnes, and reduce them to Vnity and Vnanimity\*. Remembring them out of old *Stories* and *Tragedies*, of the diſaſters which befall to Brothers that were Princes, by ſuch Diſſentions. Hee ſhewed them how full of Money the Treas.

*Severus* Inſtruction to his Sonnes.  
\* ὁμοθυμαδον.

*Treasuries and Temples were, so that they needed not to seeke for Wealth and Riches abroad, that had such abundance at home, whereby they might bountifully reward the Souldiers at their pleasure: That the Romane Guards were quadrupled; and so puissant an Army lay before the City, that considering the Number of men at Armes, Hugesnes of their bodies, and great store of treasure, no forraign power was able to comeneere them: And yet all (he said) would come to naught, if they jarr'd & warr'd one with the other.*

Thus did hee daily schoole them, and by sharpe reprehensions and faire speeches, strove all hee could to bring them to sobriety and temper. But all in vaine. For these unbridled Gallants, being in those first heats of youth, flisht in all kinde of Pleasures (by reason of their Impe-

Imperiall State) became worse and worse, and were more at ods than ever, by the practices of their Parasites, who did not only base offices in serving their Lusts, but were also still projecting new Quarrells and Debates betwixt them for their own sinister ends. But *Severus* finding out divers of those bad Instruments, severely punisht them.

The Emperour being in great anguish of spirit, by reason of his Childrens unseemly and unprincipely Demeanour, received <sup>Newes from Britaine.</sup> Letters from his Vice-Roy of Britaine, cerifying, that the Barbarians there were risen, and had ranged over the Country, pillaging & wasting all before them: that he needed therfore greater Forces to defend the\*Place; or rather, that his Imperiall Majesty should come in person.

\*He means the Provi-  
ciated part  
of Britaine.

Seve-

*Severus* was glad of this newes as naturally desirous of honour, and ambitious (after his Eastern and Northern Victories and Surnames) to make a Conquest of the *Britaines*. Joyfull also hee was of so faire an occasion to take his Sonnes from *Rome*, and weane them from the Diet and Delights of the City, by inuring them to a sober military life. He proclaimed therefore his Expedition into *Britaine*, being now old and gowtie, but of more vigour and alacrity, than any in the flower of youth. In his Journey, he was carried (for the most part) in a *Sicgetta*: and rested almost in no place. Having ended his Land-travells, he imbarks (with his sonnes) for *Britaine*; where he arrived sooner than any thought or expected. Presently he commands a generall

*Severus expedition into Britaine.*

rall Muster, and raising a great power, prepares for the Warre.

The *Britaines* much troubled at the Emperors sudden\*arrival, \* *Omnia repentina increment.* and understanding that he meant to bring all those Forces against them, sent Embassadors to crave Peace, and excuse their Faults. But *Severus* seeking to protract time (lest hee should returne to *Rome* as he came) and being very eager of the Conquest and Surname of *Britaine*, dismisses their Embassadors without \*dispatch, \* *ἀπαρκεύς*. and provides all warlike Ammunition. And to the end his soldiers might stand firme in fight, and bestirre themselves nimbly, and on sure ground; hee gave strict charge to make Causies and Bridges over the Marshland: For the most part of that Region of the *Britaines*, being surrounded by the Oceans continually

tinuall Irruption, is Fenny and Moorish. In those Bogges the

\* The Romanes stilled all Barbarians, but themselves and the Greeks. Description of Picts or Scots, a branch of the Britans. \* Barbarians use to swim and run up and downe, plunging themselves to the middle; for being halfe-naked, they care not for Mire or Mud. They use not Vestures, but weare about their waists and neckes an Ornament of Iron, which they esteeme a rare accoutrement, and rich abilliment (as other Barbarians doe Gold.) They pounce and paint their bodies with curious pictures, and the shapes of all sorts of Creatures; in which regard, they are not clad all over, lest they should hide that brave Embroderie. They are a most Martiall \* people, and very furious in fight: wherein they use onely a narrow Shield, a Pike, and a Sword hanging at their naked sides. As for Cuirace or Caske, they

Their Elo-  
gie.  
\* μαχιμώ-  
τατοι τε η  
φονικώτα-  
τοι.  
Sword and  
Pike the  
King and  
Queene of  
Weapons.

they use none at all; deeming they would but hinder them in traversing the pools and fennes; out of which the foggy vapours continually arising, make the sky in that Coast alwaies cloudy.

*Severus* hauing all things in readinesse that he desired, which might further the Romanes, or hinder & annoy the Barbarians, left his younger son *Geta* in that \* part of the Ile, which was under the *Romane* obedience, to minister Iustice, and governe the State; appoynting (for his Assistance) his most ancient Friends and Counsellours; but tooke *Antonine* with him to the Warre against the Barbarians. The Armie (having past those rivers and Rampiers which determinate the Frontiers of the Romanes from the Barbarians) made certaine petty Skirmishes and

\* *Pict. at York*

\* *Severus*  
lost fifty  
thousand  
in that Ser-  
vice. *Dio.*

and Excursions, wherein they had still the better. But the enemies retreated at their pleasure into their Fastnesses among the Woods and Fennes (so familiar to them;) wherein they hid themselves; which being no small\* detriment to the Romans, did spinne the Warre to a great length. Meanwhile *Severus*, being now very aged, fell into a languishing Disease, which forced him to keep home, and send *Antonine* to prosecute the warre. But hee little regarding the Barbarians, bended all his indeavours to win the Souldiers, perswading them to make him their Chief. For he vehemently aspired to sole Sovereign; to which purpose, hee still depraved and disvalued his brother. Hee was also much vext that his Fathers Disease was so lingring, and had not

not made an end of him; wherefore he solicited his Physicians and Attendants to dispatch the old man, and mischiefe him (by any meanes whatsoever.) At last *Severus* departed this life, being consumed and pined away, rather \* with Heart-griefe, \* *Severus* dies for griefe. than any other malady; having beene the most famous Warriour of all the Emperours. For none ever got so many Victories over Civill and Forraigne Enemies. He deceased \* in the eighteenth yeare of his Raigne, leaving to his young sonnes which succeeded him, such a Masse of Treasure, as never any did; and so puissant an Armie, as was unmatched.

*Antonine* (after *Severus* death) being now in supreme authority, instantly beganne to bathe himselfe in bloud: putting to death

\* At *Yorke*,  
*April. 4. An.*  
*Dom. 212.*

*Antonines*  
Cruelty.

death the Physicians for not hastening the old Emperors death (as he commanded) & killing his own & brothers foster-fathers, because they had mediated an Accord between them: not sparing any that either honoured his Father, or was honoured by him. He solicited also the chief Captaines and Commanders (with large gifts and promises) to perswade the Souldiers to proclame him sole Emperour: using all possible Traines and Mines against his brother. But the Souldiers would in no wise yield to it; for they well knew, that *Severus* had from their Infancie trained them in the same degree of honour; and therefore they were resolved to love and honour both alike. *Antonine* seeing hee could not prevaile with the Armie, made a League with

with the Barbarians; to whom having given peace, and received their Pledges, hee departed in all haste to his Mother and Brother. Being come together, their Mother [the Emperesse] and all the great Lords and Counsellours of State assai-  
 ed to make them friends: whereupon *Antonine*, when he saw that all opposed his Designes, of constraint rather than willingly, yielded to a dissembled attone-  
 ment. Then both the Brothers, ruling with equall Authority, sailed out of *Britaine*, and tooke their Journey to *Rome*; carrying with them their Fathers Reliques. For his body being buried, the Ashes (mixt with sweet Odours) were bestowed in an Urne of Alabaster, which they tooke to *Rome*, to place it in the  
 \* sacred Sepulchers of the Emperours.

*severus his Reliques.*

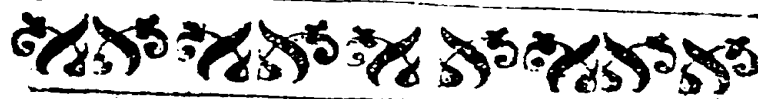
*\*sepulchra.*



*Antonine  
and Geta  
saile out of  
Britaine.*

perours. They lead the Army  
(as Conquerors of *Britaine*) and  
landed in *Gallia*. Thus have we  
shewed in this Booke, the man-  
ner of *Severus* Raign and Death,  
and how his Sonnes suc-  
ceeded him in the  
Empire.

*The End of the third Booke.*



## HERODIAN HIS IMPERIALL HISTORIE.

*The fourth Booke.*

### The Contents.

**T**He two Emperours enter Rome  
in State. What Romane Empe-  
rours Deified. Their solempne Obse-  
quie and Funerall Triumph: Seve-  
rus Deified: Wrestling: The Par-  
tition of the Empire: The Empresse  
Dowager hinders it: Antonine kills  
Geta: His Prodigality and savage  
Cruelty: His guilty Conscience:  
His Exercises and Military Austeri-  
ty: He acts Alexander and Achilles:  
Hee is royally entertained at Alexan-  
dria: He offers at Alexanders Shrine:  
His Quarrell to the Alexandrians.  
A fearfull Massacre: He pretends to  
bee a Suiter to the King of Parthia's  
L 2 Daugh-

*Daughter; under which colour, hee massacres the Parthians: He consults with Magicians, and commands them to conjure: Hee is slaine: Macrinus succeeds: His Speech: A terrible battell betwixt the Romans & Parthians: Herald make a sudden League betwixt them.*

**H**He Acts of *Severus* the Emperour during the Eighteene yeares of his Reigne, we have related in the precedent booke.

The two Emperors take their Journey to *Rome*.

His Sonnes, who were yet young, hastned with their Mother towards *Rome*: but by the way, they fell to such Iarres, as that they neither lodged in the same house, nor eate together; being extreme jealous, lest they received poyson one from the other, in their Meats or Drinks; either secretly from themselves, or otherwise, by suborning their Servants. They made therefore the

the more haste in their Journey, as supposing they might both live more securely at *Rome*; and that the Imperiall Palace (which The Magnificent Pallace of the Emperours. for Numerous and Gorgious Edifices, was larger than all the Citty) being disparted betwixt them; there would be roome enough for each of them to have his severall Court, and live as pleased himselfe.

Being come to *Rome*, the people received them with Laurels, and the Peeres welcomed them. They enter Rome in State. The Emperours themselves went formost; vested in Purple Robes of State. Next after them followed the *Consuls*, which supported the *Vrue*, wherein were *Severus* Reliques. The Nobles having saluted the new Emperours, passed along, and adored the *Vrue*: which having honoured with great Pompe and Ceremony, they shrined it in the

Temple, where the Sacred Monuments of *Marcus*, and the Emperours (before him) are to be seene. After the Divine Rites and Offices were celebrated, (as is accustomed at Imperiall Inaugurations) the Princes went to the Palace Royall; which dividing betwixt them, they dwelt apart, making fast all the secret passages; and using onely in common, the publicke Court-gates. They chose also severall Guards, and came not together, but for some small while, when they were to shew themselves to the people.

*Severall Funerall.*

Yet had they speciall care to solemnize their Fathers Funerall with Glorious Ceremonies. For it is the manner of the Romans to Deifie those Emperours, which at their Decease leave their Sonnes to succeede them. This Solemnity they call,

pla-

placing of the among the gods.

Over all the city there is a semblance of Mourning intermixt with that Divine Celebrity. For the dead corps is with sumptuous Exequies, buried as others usually are. Then in the Porch of the Palace, is erected on high, a state-ly bed of Ivory, spread with coverings of cloth of Gold; whereon is laid an Image of Waxe, made very like to the Defunct. This Image lies like a sicke person, pale & discoloured. On both sides of the bed, there sit most part of the day, on the left hand, all the most Honourable Lords, in black Vestures; on the right hand, all the Ladies of Honour ennobled by the Splendor of their Parents & husbands. None of which are adorned with gold or Jewels, but are vested in thinne white Rayment, after the guise of Mourners. This they doe seaven daies

The Ritual magnificence at the Funeralls and Deifications of Emperors.

together Meane-while, Physicians come often to the bed, as if they visited a Patient, saying stil, that he growes worse and worse. When he seems to be departed, the most noble young Gallants, among all the Senators, & \* Order of Knight-hood, lift up the bed on their shoulders, and carry it through the \* Sacred Street, to the old Forum; (where the Roman Magistrates use to resigne their Offices.) On both sides are Scaffolds erected: On the one part, is a Quire of Boyes of most noble birth and descent: opposite to them is a Quire of Ladies of prime Nobilitie: all which sing Hymnes and \* Lauds over the defunct, with solemn mournfull Melody. Which done, they take up the bed againe, and carry it out of the City, to *Mars* his field; in the broadest place whereof is erected a *Frame*, of a Quadrangled

\* *ἱππικὸν ταγματός.*

\* *Via sacra:*  
It reached from the Pallace to the Forum, which was the chiefe Place of publicke Meetings & Pleadings.

\* Or *Pæans*

*Campus Martius.*

drangled *Æquilaterall* Forme, made like a little \* House, consisting of no other Materials, but huge pieces of Timber compact together. Within, it is filled with dry wood: without, it is decked with Tapestry embrodered with Gold; with Ivory Statuaes, and Exquisite Pictures. In the lower part, is placed a lesser Structure, framed and beautified like the other, with little gates and doores set open. There is also a third, and fourth roome; still lesser, and lesser: and then, divers other; till you come to the last, which is least of all. Which kinde of Edifice, may bee resembled to the \* *Light-Houses*, which by fire in the night, direct ships to a safe Harbor (vulgarly called *Pharos*.) The bed being brought into the second roome, they throw in (by heapes) all sorts of Spices, and sweet Odours, that the earth as-

\* *οἰκήμα-  
τα.*  
The Funerall Pile, or Deificatory Throne.

\* *σπονδα-  
ρίαις.*  
By these Arabian Spices and Odours, &c. there seems to be in this supreme Solemnity, an Allusion to the *Phoenix*, &c.

foords, and all kinde of fragrant  
 and odorate Fruits, Herbes, and  
 Gums: for there is not a \* Pro-  
 vince, or City, or any Person of  
 Honor and Authoritie, which is  
 not ambitious to send these last  
 Presents, to the Honour of their  
 Prince. When a mighty Pile of  
 Aromatickes is amassed toge-  
 ther, so that all the place is full;  
 then, all of the Order of Knight-  
 hood, gallantly mounted on  
 horseback, ride round about the  
 Frame; wheeling to and fro, and  
 prancing in great bravery the  
 "Pyrrhick Measures. In the same  
 stately manner, there ride about  
 the Frame, Purple Chariottiers,  
 representing the Persons, & bea-  
 ring the Images of the Noblest  
 Roman Worthies & Emperors.  
 Which Celebrity performed,  
 the Successor in the Empire takes  
 a Torch in his hand, and puts it  
 to the Frame. Then, all the mul-  
 titude

\* *Εὐροῶς*.  
 (in which  
 sense the  
 Author u-  
 ses it per to-  
 rum.)

The Funer-  
 all Dance  
 or Triumph

\* Dancing  
 in Armour  
 invented by  
 K. Pyrrhus.  
*Plin. Hist.*  
*lib. 7. c. 56.*

titude set fire to it on every side,  
 and presently the whole Frame,  
 filled with such combustible and  
 odoriferous stuff, is al on a bright  
 blaze. Immediately, from the top  
 of the least and highest Turret (as  
 from a Pinnacle) an Eagle is let  
 flie into the Ayre, at the instant  
 of the firing; which (as the Ro-  
 mans believe) carries the Empe-  
 rors soule from earth to heaven.  
 And ever after, they worship him  
 among the other Gods.

An Eagle  
 let flie.

The young Emperours, after  
 the solemne Deification of their  
 Father, returning home, the  
 flames of discord burst out a-  
 gain; which growing to a dead-  
 ly Feud, they plotted all manner  
 of wayes to surprize and entrap  
 one another, each attempting all  
 possible meanes to make away  
 the other, that he might be sole  
 Emperor. Yea the minds and af-  
 fections of all the Citizens of  
 grea-

Severus De-  
 ified.

The Character of  
*Geta* and  
*Antonine*.

Wrestling  
a Princely  
Sport.

greatest Power and Dependencies were infinitely distracted, both the Emperours sending (in secret) their different Letters, and seeking to win and wedge men to their severall factions, by faire promises. But the maior part inclined to *Geta*, because he shewed some sparks of Noble Honesty, and was mild and affable in Conversation, and used Honorable Studies. For he had still about him Learned men, and was frequent at Wrestling, and other ingenious Exercises. He was also full of Humanitie and Courtesie towards all. & of so gracefull & Princely behavior, that the fame and good opinion of him drew most mens affections to him. But *Antonine* bore himselfe in a harsh and rugged fashion; and being altogether averse frō the things before recited, affected the reputation of a Martialist & Man of Warre.

Warre. Whereupon, doing all things in Choller and Fury, hee sought rather to winne men by Threatning than Intreating, and by Feare than Love. Their mother seeing them so discordant in all their Actions (even of least Consequence) assayed to reconcile them, but in vaine. Whereupon, they (once) resolved to share the Empire betwixt them, least residing still at *Rome*, they should be circumvented by each other. Wherefore having assembled their Fathers Kinsmen & Counsellors of State, they debated (in their Mothers presence) how to make the Partition: Where all *Europe* was adjudged to *Antonine*, and all the opposite coast called *Asia*, was assigned to *Geta*: (for so hath it pleased the Divine Providence to determinate both Continents by the\* *Propontick Gulfe*.) It was also, agreed that

The Empire divided

\* Of this  
*Vid. Strab.*  
*lib. 2.* and  
the Travels  
of that noble  
learned  
Gentleman  
*M. George*  
*Sandys pag.*  
*27.* -- *quem*  
*pulcher A-*  
*pollo,*  
*omnes per*  
*montes, atq;*  
*antra per*  
*omnia fluxit*

*Anto-*

*Antonines* Campe should lye at *Byzantium*: and *Getaes* at *Chalcedon*, a City in *Bithynia*: that the Armies facing each other (in those Frontire Townes) might guard the Dominions of both, and forbid the Passage by Sea: [*Chalcedon* being situate over against *Byzantium*, in the mouth of *Pontus Euxinus*.] It was likewise ordered, that the Senators and Nobles which were *Europeans*, should reside at *Rome*; the rest should follow *Geta*; who destined *Antioch* or *Alexandria* (which were not much lesse than *Rome*) for the chief seat of his Empire; & was content to leave to *Antoine* the Provinciated Moors and Numidians of the South (with the bordering nations of *Africk*) taking to himselfe the Countries (beyond) towards the Orient. While they were thus parting the Empire \* by the Map, all the Lords

\* *διὰ τὴν  
γεωγραφίαν.*

Lords being much grieved at it, their Mother *Iulia* thus interrupted them; *O my Sonnes, you have found the way to divide Sea and Land; and the Ponticke Gulfe (as you say) parts both Continents: But how will you divide your Mother? How shall I (Wretched Woman!) be torne & mangled betwixt you? First therefore kill me outright, and divide me (each of you taking his part) that I also (with Sea and Land) may bee divided betweene you.* Having thus said, with many teares, she caught hold of them both (with a loud shriek) and clasping them in her Armes, with great violence of affection, endeavoured to reconcile them. Which piteous sight stricke such a horror into all; that the \* Counsell was dismist, the Proposition quite dashed, and the Princes returned to their severall Palaces. Yet was there no hope of Reconcilement, but still their

The Em-  
presses  
Speech to  
her Sonnes.

\* *συνέδριον.*

their irrelenting Fury increased. At the Elections of Vice-Royes and Presidents, each preferred his Friend; and when they sate in Iudgement, they were of different Opinions; to the infinite losse of those which had Causes to be heard; for they more regarded Partiallity, than Iustice or Equitie. Yea, at Sports & Games they were still of contrary sides. Neither did they forbear any sort of Treachery; but dealt cuffs with their severall Cooks and Cup-bearers, to poison each other. Which not taking effect, because of the ordinary care and caution of both at their Table; at last *Antonine* having lost all patience, and resolved to raigne alone, intends to murder his brother. For seeing his secret plots succeeded not, he determined in despite of all danger, to breake through all difficulties. Wherefore

Wherefore rushing into his brothers Chamber (who thought not of him) hee flew him in his mothers armes, who was all embrewed with his blood. Which done, he leaps forth, and running through all the Court, cries out, he had like to have beene murdered, and hardly escaped. Then he commands his Gaurd to convey him presently into the camp to save his life; saying, he should instantly be slaine, if he stayed there. They beleeving what hee said, and not knowing what was don within, ran along with him. The City was extremely terrified at the Emperours running thorow the City in the evening. As soone as he got to the Camp, he went to the Chappell, where the Ensignes and Images of the army are kept with religious veneration, and falling flat on the earth, thanked the Gods for his great

*Antonine kills Gero.*

*He flies to the Campe.*



great deliverance. Which when the Souldiers heard (that were then either bathing, or gone to their Rest) they all flockt thither in amazement. *Antonine* going among them, confest not presently what he had done, but cryed out amaine, that he had escaped a dangerous plot of his Capitall Enemye (meaning his Brother) and that with much adoe, after a long Conflict, his Adversaries were overcome: in which fight, both being ingaged, himselfe at last (thanks to his good Fortune) remained sole Emperour: By which darke and intortled Speeches, he meant they should rather ghesse at what was done, than directly understand him. Then (to secure himselfe and the Empire) he promised to every Souldier, two \* thousand five hundred *Attique Drachmaes*, and double the *Wheat* they were wont to have:

\* 80.li. (aut  
præter-prop-  
ter.)  
His Prodi-  
gality.

bid-

bidding them go themselves immediately and take the Mony out of the Temples and Treasuries. Thus did he in one day squander away all the Coyne that *Severus* had raked out of others ruines, in eightene yeares. The Souldiers allured with such a Masse of money, and understanding how the world went, (the murther being now divulged by them that fled out of the Court) Proclaimed him sole Emperour, (terming *Geta* a traitor.) *Antonine* stayed that night in the Temple, and taking heart (as having by these Donatives assured the Souldiers) he repaired (the next day) to the Senate-house, with all his Army, which was better armed than in the usuall Attendance on the Prince. Having sacrificed, he mounted the Imperiall Throne, and thus spake:

*Antonines*

### Antonine's Speech to the Senate.

**I** Am not ignorant how odious and subject to calumnie the Murther of Domestickes is at the first Bruit: for Men are apt to pittie them that suffer, and to maligne the Actors: so that he which is vanquished may bee thought to be wronged, and the Victor to have done the wrong. But if Men looke into the Matter with cleere judgments, not clouded with favour to the defunct, but rightly weighing his cause and ballancing his purpose, they will soone discern that it is farre more reasonable and necessary to revenge, than receive an Injurie: (the Party slaine being (withall) so egregious a coward, and the Victor so bravely valorous, as appears by the Event.) What perilous Plots hee had on foot against me, both by Poysons, and all sorts of treacherous practices, you may soone finde by the torture of his Servants, whom I have therefore commanded to bee brought hitber, that you may know the truth. Divers of them have beene  
exa-

examined already; whose Confessions you may heare. The truth is, I being with my Mother, he and others rusht in upon me, with drawne swords: but I shrewdly suspecting it (my mind mis-giving me) prevented it, and slew him as a Traitor: for certes hee had not the affection or disposition of a brother. Now as it is an act of Iustice to bee revenged on such dangerous persons, so are there good Precedents for it. Romulus, the first Founder of this City, would not indure his owne brother, \*that did but jest at his endeavours. I \* Vid. Liv. & Aurel. omit Germanicus, brother to Nero; Victor. de and Titus, brother to Domitian. Mar- Orig. Gent. cus himselfe, that made such a faire Rom. Flourish of Philosophy and Humanity, would not suffer the affront of \*Lu- \* There cius, his Sonne in law; but secretly was a Re-dispatcht him. And so have I antici- port that pated (by a just Vindication) the Poy- Marcus Au- sons and Sword of an Enemy: (for relius poy- soned him, so his Deeds stile him.) You are ther- but (as Au- fore to thanke the Gods, that have re- relius Victor saith) none served you such a Prince, under whose but lewd sole Regiment you may now live qui- persons be- etly and securely, without Distracti- lieved it. ons: For as Iupiter is the onely Em- perour

*perour among the Gods, so hath hee decreed that there shall bee but one Emperour among Men.*

His Savage  
Cruelty.

\*They had  
not the ho-  
nour of a  
decent Fu-  
nerall.

Having thus said with a loud Voice (in great rage) and casting a terrible frowne on his brothers friends, he leaves the Senatours (most whereof lookt pale and trembled) and hurries to the Palace: where he instantly slew all his brothers servants & friends, not sparing any Officers that were found in the House, nor any other, no not very Infants: All whose Carcasses being despightfully throwne into Carts, and carryed out of the City, were cast by heaps (at randome) into the \* fire. Hee spared none that had the least acquaintance with *Geta*; but put to the sword, even Wrestlers, Charriot-drivers, and all kinde of Players and Actors, that had any way delighted him, by seeing or hea-  
ring

ring them. He slew also the most eminent and opulent Senatours, upon the least suspicion or suggestion, that they were friends to his brother. He put to death *Commodus* his Sister (who was then an old woman, and had bin much honoured of all the Emperours, because she was *Marcus* his Daughter; ) imputing it as a crime, that shee wept with his Mother at her Sonnes Murther. Nor did hee forget his *quondam* Wife (*Plantians* Daughter) that lived in *Sicily*; nor his Couzen-german, named *Severus*; nor *Pertinaxes* Sonne; nor the Sonne of *Lucilla* (Sister to *Commodus*) but cut them all off, together with all the Imperiall Kindred, and the flower of the Nobility and Gentry. Then sent he into the Provinces, and massacred all the Presidents and Procurators, as *Geta's* Favourites. Yea, whole  
Nights

Nights were spent in such Tragickall executions of all sorts of people. Hee buried the Vestall Virgins quicke, pretending they had lost their Virginity. Lastly (which was never done before)

\* Instituted  
in honour  
of Neptune.

Vid. Al. ab  
Alex. Gen.  
Die. lib. 6.  
cap. 19.

when at the Circensian \* Sports (where himself was a spectator) the people cast some scoffe at a Charriotier which he favoured, he taking it as an affront to himselfe, suddenly commanded his Men at armes to rush among the Multitude, and kill all that had scorned the Charriot-driver. Upon this Command, it being impossible to find out the Delinquents, in so great a throng (no man confessing himselfe guilty) the Souldiers spared none that they light upon, but either slew them, or tooke away that they had in lieu of Ransome. After all which hainous Acts, his conscience recoyling, and shrewdly stinging

His guilty  
Conscience

stinging him, he was weary of the City life, and resolved to leave Rome, upon colour to reforme the Legions, and visit the Provinces. Departing therefore from Italy, he came to the banks of Ister, and the Northern parts of the Empire; where he exercised himselfe in Coach-races and combating with all kind of Wilde-beasts. Sometime he sat in judgement (though very seldom) where, after a few words on either side, he presently gave Sentence. He much affected the Germanes, and made them his Confederates and Associates in warre; choosing from among them, the most valiant and personable, to bee of his Guard. Yea, he oft laid aside his Roman habit, and put on Germane attire, going abroad in their Cassockes trimmed with Silver, and wearing a yellow Periwig, like

His Exerci-  
ses.

His affecti-  
on to the  
Germanes,

His Milita-  
ry Austerity

the Germane bush. Which affected Garbe infinitely endeared him to the Barbarians. And the Roman Army was well pleased, by reason of his profuse Donatives, and because he descended to the performance of all Military labours in his owne person; for hee would first dig (when neede required) and if a bridge were to bee made over a River, or a Rampire to be cast, or any Manuary worke or toyle to bee undertaken, he would be the first that should put his hand to it; contenting himselfe with a spare Diet, wooden cups and platters, and any bread whatsoever: for his manner was, to take so much wheat as would suffice one man, which he grinded himselfe, and then kneading it into Cakes, and baking it on the Embers, eat it. Briefe, hee left off all manner of Iunkets and delicates, faring no  
Other.

otherwise than the poorest common souldier. Moreover, it pleased him better (as he pretended) to bee called Fellow-souldier, than Emperour; accustoming himselfe to travel on foot (as the rest did) and rarely using Horse or Caroch; carrying also his owne Armes, and many times, the Great Imperiall Standard; which being marveilous weighty, by reason of the rich and Massie Gold-worke, was not easily borne by the strongest Ancient-bearer. For these and the like observances, the army loved him as a good Souldier, and honoured him as a brave Commander. And indeede it was a wonder, that so small a timberd man, was able to do so great matters. But when he had visited the Legions upon the banks of *Ister*, and went downe into *Thrace*, which borders on *Macedonia*, he  
M 2 then

He acts A-  
lexander.

then began to play *Alexander*, reviving that Kings Memory, by all meanes possible, causing his Statues and Images to be erected in every City, and filling *Rome* it selfe, the Capitoll, and all the Temples with them. I have seen also divers ridiculous Images, which had one entire Body, and one Head, which had two halfe-faces, to wit, *Alexanders* and *Antonines*. His ordinary Weare, was the Macedonian Habit, a \* Turban on his head, and Pantofles on his feet. He had a select troop of young Souldiers, which hee stiled the *Macedonian Phalanx*, commanding his Captaines to call themselves by the names of *Alexanders* Captaines. Hee sent for Youths from *Sparta*, and termed them the *Laconicke* and \* *Pitanite* Band. After this, having made the Townes and Cities renable, he went to *Pergamus* a Ci-

\* Of the Ci-  
ty pitane  
in Laonia.

tie in *Asia*, to take Physicke of *Æsculapius*; where having done as his Fancie led him, he marched straight to \* *Ilium*, to view \* *Troy*. the Ruines of it, and visit *Achilles* Tombe; w<sup>ch</sup> having bravely decked with flowers and garlands, hee then would needs act *Achilles*: but wanting a *Patroclus*, hee played this Pranke. He had with him one *Festus*, his most beloved Freed-man, and the Imperiall Remembrancer, who died while he was at *Ilium*, being (as some say) poysoned, that hee might have such a Funerall as \* *Patro-* \* *Vol. Hom.*  
*clus*: but others say, he dyed na- *Iliad* l. 23.  
turally. How ever, he commanded his corps to bee brought forth, and a great Funerall Pile to be made; wheron having cast the dead body, and killed of all manner of beasts, he set the Pile on fire, and lifting up a Viall, sacrificed Wine, and prayed to the

He acts A-  
chilles.

\* This was  
an ancient  
Funerall  
rite. *Vid.*  
*Philop. 1ph.*  
*Herod. 1. -*  
*et stat. in*  
*Epitaph. pat*  
*Sylla and*  
*Anniball.*

Winds. But when he was to cast his haire \* also into the flame, having a very thin *Bush naturall*, all the Company laught: yet he made a sorry shift, and cut of all the haire he had. Of all Generals, he commended chiefly the Roman *Sylla*, and African *Annibal*: whose Images and Statues he erected.

Departing from *Ilium*, and passing thorow *Asia*, *Bithynia*, and other Provinces (where hee settled his Affaires) hee came to *Antioch*; where being honourably entertained, and having stayed a certaine time, he sent to *Alexandria*, pretending he had a great longing to see the City which *Alexander* founded; as also, to consult the God which the Citizens so much honored. Upon these two Pretexts, to wit, the Adoration of their Deity, and Veneration of that Heroes Memory

Memory, hee gave order that \* Hecatombes and Sacrifices (of all sorts) should bee prepared against his Comming. Which Message being delivered to the Alexandrians (who are naturally Cocke-brain'd and light-headed) they were almost beside themselves for joy that the Emperour was so devoted to them: They made therefore such royall preparations for his Entertainment, as the like (they say) was never made for any Prince. All manner of exquisite Musick and curious Melody was heard over all the City: All his Passages were perfumed with all sorts of precious Odors and Aromatickes. Torches were lighted, and all the way strewed with Gelsomines and Muske roses. The Emperour entred the City with all his Army, and first went to the Temple, where having

\* Sacrifices  
of an hundred Oxen.

His royall  
entertainment at *Alexandria*.

His Offer-  
tory at *Alexanders*  
Shrine.

\* *καὶ ἄλλοι*

His secret  
said all to  
the *Alex-*  
*andrians*.

The *Alex-*  
*andrians*  
described.

ving sacrificed Hundreds of  
Beeves, and burnt Heapes of In-  
cense on the Altars, he visited  
*Alexanders* Shrine; where he of-  
fered his Purple Robe, his Rings  
set with Paragon Stones, his  
Belt, Scarfe, and choicest Jew-  
ells he had about him: all which  
he laid upon his Tombe, where-  
at the *Alexandrians* being\* over-  
joyed, revelled and feasted day  
and night, little dreaming what  
a banquet the Emperour would  
shortly make them. For all this  
Piausibilitie was meerely colou-  
rable; his Intendment being to  
make a generall Massacre among  
thē. The cause of his secret ran-  
cour was this: It was told him  
at *Rome* in his brothers time, and  
after his death, that the Citizens  
of *Alexandria* had spoken dis-  
gracefully of him. Indeed they  
are naturally a very scurrilous  
People, and much given to gi-  
bling

bing and gieriing of others; ca-  
sting out against the most emi-  
nent Persons, many cutting  
Quips, which themselves thinke  
are fine conceits; but they against  
whom they are spoke, take them  
as great Indignities. For those  
jesters are most biting, that have  
most relish of truth. Having ther-  
fore much traduced him for his  
brothers murther, nicknamed  
his mother *Iocasta*, and scoft him,  
for that being such a low Grig,  
he would presume to personate  
such High and Mighty\* Heroes  
as *Alexander* and *Accbilles*; they  
did so enrage *Antonine*, who (by  
nature) was of a fiery and sangui-  
nary disposition, that while they  
thus sported themselves with  
their Squibs and Flashes, he in-  
tended to lash them with a teri-  
ble Revenge. Wherefore the Fe-  
stivall Celebrity being ended,  
he perceiving what an infinite

\* Or Semi-  
Gods.



number were come together into the City, out of the Regions adjoyning, made Proclamation, that all the Youths should assemble themselves in a certaine Plaine; that as he had already a Macedonian & Spartan *Phalanx*; so also he might (in honor of *Alexander*) have another *Phalanx*; named (after him) *Alexandrian*. He willed therefore that the yong men should be so ranked that a Lane might bee left for him to walke and take a View, which were fittest for Age, Strength, & Stature, to serve in the wars. This being beleevd (as very probable) in regard of the high honor he had so lately done to *Alexander*, all the yonkers accompanied with their Parents and Couzens, met at the place assigned, with great joy and alacrity. *Antonine* passing thorow all the Ranks, and perusing them severally,

rally, commended first one, and then another; protracting the time, till his whole army had rounded them (ere any observed it or thought of it.) As soone as he wist that they were all circled by his men of war, and taken (as it were) in a toile, he presently departs (with his Guard) and makes a signall to the Army; *Alexandrian* which instantly rushing in on every side, make a furious slaughter of the unarmed Youths, and all the rest that were enclosed; some of the Souldiers employing themselves onely in killing, other in throwing the dead bodies into huge deep Pits, wheron casting much earth, they made a huge great Mount. Many were thrust in halfe dead; and not a few were buried quicke. There perisht also many of the Souldiers: For they which had any breath left in their bodies, and had.

had not lost all their vigour, caught hold of the Souldiers that flung them in, and haled them with them into the graves. So great was the slaughter, that streames of bloud gushing through the Plaine, died the Mouth of *Nilus*, and the shore about the City with Purple gore. And now affecting the Sirname of *Parthicus*, and the honour of Conquering the Orientall Barbarians (though they lived in \* profound Peace) he layes this Plot. He sends Letters to *Artabannus* the King of *Parthia*, and Embassadours with stately Presents; Certifying them, that he was desirous to have his daughter to wife; that he was an Emperor, and Sonne to an Emperor, and was not minded therefore to bee Sonne in Law to any Subject, or meane person, but rather to espouse a Queene, or some great Princessse; that the Roman and Par-

\* *Epiphus*  
*Labellus*.

An embaf-  
fy to the  
Parthians.

thicke

thicke Empires were the two greatest in the world, which if (by affinity) they were united, & their powers conjoynd, (without any Barre or Let by Rivers or otherwise) they would become absolutely Invincible; that the Barbarian nations subject to both Empires, would be more manageable, if every severall Countrey and City had governours of their owne Nation; that the Roman Infantery and Pike-men excelled all others in set Battel, that the Parthian Caval- lery and Archers, exceeded for number and Skill. Both which concurring with correspondent Military valour, and all Warlike necessities, would easily reduce the whole World to an entire Monarchy under one Diadem. And whereas those Countreies yeilded Spices, Odours and the finest Silkes; and the Roman dominions abounded in all kind of Mineralls, and Manufactures, which (in the division) Merchants imported but by stealth,

Parthian  
Archers.

and

*and very seldome; were this Union effected, on one sole Empire constituted, there would follow by mutuall Trafficke and Amittie, a happy intercourse, without impeachment, or impediment.*

The Parthians Answer.

The Parthian having read these Letters, refused the offer at first, saying; *That it was very inconvenient for the Roman & Barbarian Princes to match together, for what concord could there be in so different Language, Diet, and Habite? that the Emperour might finde at Rome, many of great Nobility, and Extraction, not unworthy his Affinitie; as himselfe had likewise among his Peeres and \* Arfacide, and that it was not fit that either of their Races should be Mungreliz'd in that manner.* This was his first answer to the Emperours proposition: but *Antonine* reinforcing his suite, & by many gifts and solemn oaths confirming his zealous affection and

\* Princes of the blood descended of King Arfaces.

and desire of Marriage; The Barbarian King yeelded (at last) and promising to give him his Daughter, called him, *His son in law that should be.* Which newes being divulged; all the Barbarians prepared to entertaine the King of the Romanes; and rejoyced in hope of an eternall Peace. Whereupon *Antonine* passing the Rivers without opposition, progressed over *Parthia* (as if it had been his own Countrey) the Natives every where entertained him with Sacrifices, crowned Altars, and most exquisite sweet Odours; which hee made shew to bee exceedingly affected with. Approching after a long March to the Court of *Artabanus*, the King goes forth to meet the Bridegroom (his Son in law) in a faire Plaine before the City, attended with a wondrous company of Barbarians,

*Antonine enters Parthia.*

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ans, wearing Chaplets of flowers and divers coloured Vestures of wrought Gold; frolicking and dancing to the Musicke of Flutes, Pipes, and Timbrells; for with these Revells they are marveilously delighted, especially when they are well tiple. Now when the greatest concourse of people was come together, and the Barbarians (having left their horses, bowes, and arrowes) were feasting and carousing (at randome) and misdeeming nothing, thronged and crowded together to see the royall Bridegroom; *Antonine* made a signe to his souldiers to flie upon them and murther them. The Barbarians amazed at this, gave back and fled; the Romans following the Chase, killing and wounding them. *Artabanus* himself being rescued by his Guard, and set on Horseback, had much

The Parthians massacred.

adue

adue to escape with a few of his Courtiers. The Remainder of the Barbarians were put all to the sword; for they had neither horses (which they most needed) having turned them to pasture; nor could they runne away, being hindred by their loose Garments, which reached downe to the foot, nor had they with them their Bowes and Arrowes; for what should they doe with them at a Wedding? Thus after a mighty Massacre of the Barbarians, *Antonine* taking magnificent Spoyles, and many Prisoners, departs without any resistance; burning Townes and Cities as he went, and licensing the Souldiers to take what pillage and booty they listed. This blow the Barbarians received ere they lookt for it. *Antonine* having harried and wasted the Parthian Countrey (till his souldiers

diers were weary) retreits into *Mesopotamia*, and from thence certifies the Romane Senate and People, that hee had conquered all the Orient, and reduced all those Kingdomes under his obedience. The Senate, albeit they wel knew how things went (\* for it is impossible that a Princes actions should be concealed) yet out of feare and flattery they decreed to him all Triumphall Honors. And now did *Antonine* keepe his Court in *Mesopotamia*, wholly devoting himselfe to Charriot-races, and Combates with all sorts of Wilde beasts. He had two Generalls of his army; the one was very aged, and though no great Statesman, yet a good Martiall man. His name was *Audentius*. The other (called *Macrinus*) was well seen in points of State, and an excellent Lawyer. Him the Prince did oft shrewd-

\* λαθεῖν γὰρ  
ἔργα βασι-  
λέως ἀδύ-  
νατον.

shrewdly checke and taunt (in publicke) as a man of no spirit or valour, giving him very contumelious tearmes. For understanding that he kept a good table, and loathed the course Viands that himselfe delighted in (like a souldier) and that he used to weare a short \* Cloake, and other City attire; he called him an effeminate Coward, and continually threatned to kill him. Which *Macrinus* taking to heart, was mightily intraged. Now there fell out this Accident (for at last *Antonine* was to leave the Stage.) Beeing naturally curious and inquisitive to know not onely the secrets of Men, but of Gods also, and Dæmons; and suspecting that all intended Treason against him, hee consulted all Oracles, and sent farre and neere for Magicians, Astrologers, and Wizzards: not

\* χαλῶ-  
σιον.

Magicians  
consulted.

one

Conjuring.

\* ἐπιβρα-  
λεῖν.

one escaping him, that professed those Curious Arts. But misdoubting that they all lyed, and prophesied falsely (to sooth him in his humour) hee writes to one *Maternianus*, to whom hee had committed the Government of the State at *Rome*; and (as to his most confident friend) hee had imparted all his secrets; willing him to inquire out the chiefe Magicians and Conjurers that were to be found, and to demand of the Spirits that were raised, how long hee had to live; and whether any intended to surprize the empire. *Maternianus* obeying his Cōmand, (whether the Spirits signified so much, or whether he plotted so against *Macrinus*;) writes back to *Antonine*, that *Macrinus*\* insidiously aspired to the Empire, and that therefore hee should make him away.

Having sealed these Letters (a-  
mong

mong others) hee delivers them (as usually he did) to the Posts that knew nothing of the Contents. They with wonted speede arrive at the Emperours Court, at the very instant of his beginning his Charriot-race, (for hee was now entring the Charriot) and deliver him the Packet, wherein the Letters (touching *Macrinus*) were. But *Antonine's* minde being wholly fixt on his present \* Sports, he bids *Macri-* Charriot-  
*mus* take the Letters and peruse races a great  
them, and if there were any mat- sport in  
ters of Weight, to certifie him; those daies  
otherwise to attend his Charge  
as he was wont, (thus he oft used  
to doe:) And so he hurries away  
in his Chariot. *Macrinus* retiring  
himselfe, broke up the severall  
Letters, and fell upon that which  
aimed at his destruction. Percei-  
ving therefore that his danger  
was great and impendent; and  
well

well knowing *Antonines* ferall Cruelty (especially having so faire a Pretext) he reserves that Letter to himselfe, and (as his manner was) acquainted the Prince with the Contents of the rest. But fearing, lest *Maternianus* should write againe of the same Businesse, he resolved rather to *doe* than *suffer*; and thus he plots: There was one *Martial*, a \* Centurion, and one of *Antonines* Guard, that still waited on him; whose brother was a few dayes before, executed by the Prince, upon bare Information (without proote or proceesse) who had also called *Martial* himselfe, *Base Coward*, and *Macrinus* his *Favourite* (in scorne.) This man being infinitely grieved at his brothers death, and enraged with those reproaches, *Macrinus* (who knew all the Passages) sends for; reposing in him, as having beene formerly

\* A Capitaine of an hundred men.

merly his Servant, and obliged to him by many singular Favours. Him he perswades to kill *Antonine*, upon the first Opportunity. Whereupon allured with *Macrinus* Promises, and instigated with his owne Quarrell, and his brothers Revenge, he undertakes to effect it, as soone as was possible. Shortly after it fell out, that *Antonine* lying at *Carra* in *Mesopotamia*, went from his Palace to visite the Temple of the \* *Moone*, (a good distance from the City) which Goddesse is honoured by the Natives with great Devotion. Taking with him but a small Troop of Horse (not troubling the whole army) he went on his Journey, purposing (when he had sacrificed) to returne to the City. In the Midway, commanding all to stand off, hee went aside to his Easement, taking but a Page along

*Carra* in *Mesopotamia*.

\* Of *Luna* and *Lunus* see M. Selden, de *Dijis Syris*.



*Antonine*  
flunc.

with him. Whereupon all turning their faces, and going a great way off (for Honours sake) *Martial*, who watched every minute of opportunitie, as soone as he perceived the Prince was all alone, runs instantly (as if he had beckoned to him to doe somewhat) and stabs him behind with a Stiletto, (as he was uncovering himself.) The wound being mortal, he was suddenly flunc without recovery. Which done, *Martial* takes horse and flies. But the Germane Horsemen which *Antonine* much delighted in, and used for his Guard, being next at hand, and the first that saw what was don, pursued him, and thrust him thorow with their Iavelins. When the report heereof was brought to the Army, they all ran together to the place; where *Macrinus* was the first that fell a weeping and wailing (dissemblingly

blingly) over the dead body. The Souldiers tooke his Death very heavily, accounting they had lost a deare friend and companion rather than a Prince: and not conceiting any thing of *Macrinus* his Treason, they thought *Martial* had done it in his owne quarrell: and so they all returned to their Tents: *Macrinus* having burnt the corps, sent his Ashes in an Urne to his mother to bury it. Shee was then at *Antioch*, and for grieve of her childrens disasters, slew her selfe; whether voluntarily or by compulsion, is uncertaine. This End had the Emperor *Antonine*, and his Mother *Iulia*, having lived in that manner (as I have related) hee having raigned fixe yeares alone (without his Father or Brother.)

*Antonine* extinct, the Souldiers being all in a maze, were two dayes without an Emperour, debating

bating who was fittest to be elected: For they had Intelligence, that *Artabanus* was marching with a mighty Army to be revenged on them, and to Sacrifice them to the Ghosts of them they had treacherously slaine in the time of Peace and Festivall Solemnitie. They proceed therefore to Election: and first they make choice of *Audentius*, a man bred up in the Warres, and a good commander. But he alledging he was super-annate, refuses the Empire; wherupon they elect *Macrinus*, by the perswasion especially of the \* Tribunes, who (after his death) were suspected to have beene accessary to *Antoninus* Murther, and of *Macrinus* Councel, (as in the Sequelle shall bee declared) Thus was *Macrinus* made Emperour, not so much by the Souldiers Love and Fidelitie, as by urgent Necessitie.

*Audentius*  
refuses the  
Empire.

\* Coronels  
or Serjeant-  
Majors.

*Macrinus*  
Elected.

Necessitie. Presently after, *Artabanus* approached with his forces, leading a huge Army, consisting of great troopes of Horsemen and Archers, as also Riders on Camels (in compleate Armour) with extraordinary long Lances. Wherupon *Macrinus* assembling his Souldiers, made this Speech:

*Macrinus* his Speech to  
the Army.

**I**T is no marvell that you all grieve so much for the death of so gracious a Prince, or Companion rather. But it is the part of Wisemen to take humane Chances and Calamities patiently. His memory shall be ever deare and precious among us; and his brave and noble Acts, and singular love and respect to you (with whom hee so familiarly conversed) shall to his eternall Glory be recorded to Posterity. And now having duly honoured his memory, and performed his Funerall solemnity, it concernes us all to looke to our  
N 2 selves,

selves, & prevent the present danger. The Barbarian (you see) is at hand with all the Power of the Orient, having (in his owne conceit) a just Cause and Quarrell against us. For we first provokt him by infringing the league, and Warring on him in time of publike Peace and Security. And now all the Roman Empire depends on your valor & fidelitie: For we are not to fight with this Great King about the Borders or Skirts of the Empire, or about Rivers; but for all our fortunes; hee being come to revenge his Children and Kinsmen which we (as he opines) have slaine unjustly, and contrary to our Oaths. Let us therefore take armes and (as Romans are wont) keepe our Ranks; for this confused Barbarous rout, being not well marshalled nor trained, is like enough to bee us owne overthrow. But your good Order, Discipline, and Martiall skill in fight, will both preserve yourselves, and defeat the Enemy. Wherefore charge courageously, like worthy Romans, and as you are wont; so shall we vanquish the Barbarians, and winne great Honor; for then will it go curant with the

Re-

Romans, and all the world; that we did not pulfer the former victory, by fraud, treachery, and perjurious violation of the League, but by force of Armes, and true valour.

Having thus said, the souldiers seeing in what a \* straight they were, put themselves in Battalia, and were [all night] in armes. At Sun rising, they descry Artabanus and his huge hoste advancing. When the Barbarians had done their devotions to the Sun (after their usuall guize) they ran upon the Romans with a terrible shout, & riding close to them, discharged their arrowes among them. The Romans having arranged their battels in such exquisite order, that the Corners of horse, & Moresco Darters, flanked each side, & the light armed souldiers had lanes made between the severall Maniples, to sally forth as occasion served, with great cou-

rage

\* The Romans fear'd the Parthians more than any other nation: Reade the letter in the beginning of the next Booke. The Battell betwixt the Romans & Parthians.

rage received the charge of the Barbarians. Nevertheless, they were extremely galled with continuall shot of Arrowes, and go-  
red with the long Lances, of the armed horfmen, & camell-men. Yet when the Romanes fought hand to hand, they did easily put them to the worfe. But finding themselves overpreffed by multitudes of horses & Camels, making feemblant to retireit; they fREWED the way w<sup>th</sup> calthropes, and other sharpe poynted Iron engines, which being covered with fand, and not discerned, did great hurt to the Lanciers, & camel riders. For the Horses, and especially the camels (which are tender hoofst) as foone as they trode on them, halted downe-right, and caſt their Riders. The Barbarians, while they are mounted on Horses or Camels, fight grimly. But difmounted, they

they are ſoon taken, for they dare not come to hand-ftrokes; and if they be driven to fly, or purſue the enemy, their long looſe garments are a maine let to them. Thus all the firſt and ſecond day they fought from morning till evening. Night parting them, both ſides retired to their camps as victors. The third day, they joynd battell in the ſelfe ſame plaine; where the Barbarians (being the greater number) aſſayed to wheele about, and \*incloſe the Romans; who perceiving their purpoſe, extended not their army in length, but dilated it in Front, and ſo prevented their circumvention. Now there fell ſuch an infinite number of men & beaſts, that al the field was cover'd with them, in ſo much, that huge heaps and piles of carcaſſes (but eſpecially of camels) lay one upon another, ſo high, that the Soldiers

\* Or take  
in a Net.  
*enclurement*

could not come together to fight, both the Armies being hindred from passing one to the other, by a mightie and almost impallable Barracado of carkasses; whereupon they retreated to their severall Campes.

*Macrinus* understanding that the onely cause why *Artabanus* fought so fiercely and obstinately, was because he supposed hee warred against *Antoninus*; (for the Barbarians were wont, if they prevailed not at first, to droope and grow faint-hearted; but at that time they were more resolute, intending to fight againe, as soone as they had taken away and burnt the dead bodies, not knowing that the Author of all those embroilements was slaine) sends Heralds with letters to the Parthian, certifying him, *That the Emperour was dead, and had received condigne punishment*

*ment for the violation of his oath and league; that himself was now elected to the Empire, by the Romanes (to whom it belonged) and that what was formerly done, did much displease him; that he was therefore willing to restore all the captives that were remaining, and all the spoiles that were caried away; & that he also much desired to make him his friend, & to confirm the Peace by oath and sacrifice.*

Which letters *Artabanus* having read, and being fully informed (by the Heralds) of *Antoninus* <sup>Heralds.</sup> murther; conceiving also, that he was sufficiently plagued for his perfidiousnesse; and satisfying himselfe with the rendition of the captives and spoiles, <sup>A sudden league.</sup> (without more effusion of bloud) he concludes a peace with *Macrinus*, and returnes home. The Roman Emperour marched likewise with his Armie out of *Mesopotamia*, and went to *Antioch*.



## HERODIAN HIS IMPERIALL HISTORIE.

*The fourth Booke.*

### The Contents.

**M**acrinus his Letter to the Roman Senate and People. The Senate confirme his Election. Informers punished. Macrinus his Errour. Mæsa a politicke Lady. Temple of the Sunne. His Image and Priest. Bassian made Emperor, and called Antonine. Iulian beheaded. Battell betwixt Macrine and Antonine. Macrine flies, and is beheaded. Diadumenianus Cæsar. Antonines Devotion at Nicomedia. Hee sends his Picture to Rome. His Ails at Rome. He dances about the Altars. His Cruelly and Luxury. He writes to the Senate to excuse his ravishing of a Nunne. He marries his God.

God to Minerva, and after divorces them. He marries the Sun and Moone together. Hee inthrones his God in a new Temple. His strange Donatives. Alexander made Cæsar. Wrestling a princely exercise. Stage-players highly preferred. Antonine slaine.



Ec have treated in the former Booke of the Raigne and End of Antonine, & of the treason wrought against him, and of his Successour, Macrinus remaining at Antioch, sent Letters to the Senate & People of Rome, to this effect.

*Macrinus his Letter to the Roman Senate, &c.*

**F**Or as much as you well know my manner of life from the beginning, how mild my Conversation hath been, and what great moderation I used in my former Office, which is not farre from Sovereignty (seeing the Emperour puts himselfe into the hands of the \* Pretorian Prefect) I hold it need-

Or Gene-  
eral of his  
Armes.

lesse

lesse to use many words. You may remember how much I was grieved at his Misgovernment, and not a little indangered for your sakes, when he giving care to all Delators, did extremely tyrannize you. Wherefore he still rayled at me, and publikely taxed me for my mildnes and lenity, which he scorned, and termed basenesse and Pusillanimity: For delighting in fawning Sycophants, he esteemed them his trustiest Friends and Counsellours, which did whet his cruelty, and spurre his ingenerate ferity, by exasperating Calumnies, whereas I ever highly prized modesty and humanity. I have therefore so ended the dreadful Parthick warre (wherein the whole \* Roman Empire was hazarded) as having regard to our honour, wee have not yeelded a jot to the Enemy (in valour) yea we have made that great King (which brought so huge an Host into the Field) of an Enemy a Friend, by ratifying a firme League. As for my government in the Empire, it shall be so free & unbloudy, that you shall rather judge it an Optimacie than a Monarchie. Nor let any deeme mee unworthy so great honour,

\* N. B.

or

or blame Fortune for making me of a Knight an Emperor. For what is Nobility \* without Vertue and Civility? \* *Quid genus? fine meate.* Externall fortunes may befall the unworthiest; but a Mans owne solid Worth is that which begets true Glory. Nobility, Riches, and the like, are reputed to make men happy, yet deserve not much to be commended being derived from others. But Courtesie and Affability, as of themselves they are lovely, so doe they also give a singular lustre to the most praise-worthy. What good did you reap by Commodus his noblenesse? or Antonine's succeeding his Father? Such as they, attaining the Rule by hereditary right, abuse it at their pleasure (as their private Patrimony) to all licentiousnesse. But they which receive it of your bounty, are eternally obliged to expresse their Gratitude by all good Offices. Moreover, it is often seene, that the native Splendor and Nobility of Emperors doth so puff them up with pride, that they scorne all men as their Vassalls. But they which get the Sovereignty by moderate actions are more carefull to retaine with sobriety what they

they attained with difficulty; and to give all due honor & respect to others. For my own particular, I have determined to do nothing without your approvement whom I desire to associate as my Counsellours and Assistants in the managment of the State. The liberties and Franchises which you lost by the tyranny of those so nobly descended Emperors, and which Marcus and Pertinax (raised to the Throne from a private estate) endeavored to restore, you shall fully enjoy. "For it is more honorable for a man to give the first lustre to his Family by his owne noble Achievements, than basely to contaminate (by degenerat and debauched behaviour) the Nobility received from his Ancestors.

Macrinus election confirmed by the Senate.

The Senate having read this Letter, gave him all their votes, and decreed to him all Imperial honors. Yet was not the Senate so joyfull at *Macrinus* succession, as all the commons were glad at *Antonines* destruction. For there was

was not a man of any rank or quality, but thought he had now escaped the sword which hung over his head. And now \* *Pro-* <sup>\* Sycophants</sup> moters, and all servants that had appeache their masters, were trussed on gallowses; all the city of *Rome*, & almost all the *Romane* world being well weeded of those wicked wretches, by their death or exile. And if any of <sup>Informers panish.</sup> them sculked so close, that they were not apprehended, yet was their poison kept in, for that one yeare that *Macrinus* reigned. For it was his maine errour, that he did not presently dissolve the army, (by commanding the soldiers to their severall homes) and repaire to *Rome* immediatly; the people still crying & calling for *Macrinus*. But he (unwisely) staid <sup>*Macrinus* his Error.</sup> at *Antioch*, trimming his Beard, and stalking in State with a solemne slow pace, and scarce vouch-



\* Or Bau-  
dricke.

vouchsafing to speak to any that came to him; or with so low a voice, as (it) could not be heard. In which garb he imitated *Marcus* the Emperor; not resembling him otherwise in any sort. For he daily gave himselfe to a more delicate course of life, and was more addicted to Stage-plays, Masques, & Revels, than to the Administration of the Empire. When he went in publike, he was deckt with jewels, and a \* scarce embroidered with gold and precious stones of inestimable value: which excesse, the Roman army much disliked, holding it fitter for Women & Barbarians, than Princes. Considering therefore his effeminate & unmartiall conditions, they began to disvalue him, & were still paralleling his riotous loosnesse, & *Antonines* military skill & prowesse. They also tooke it very hainously, that they

they were forced still to live in tents far from home, and many times without provision of necessities, and not permitted to returne into their severall countries, a peace being now concluded, while he fared plentifully, and lived deliciously. Wherefore abandoning all respect to him, they watched every opportunity to make an end of him. Thus did the Fates decree, that *Macrinus* having reigned but one yeare in such delicacy, should lose his life & Empire at once; Fortune ministering to the souldiers a very small and sleight occasion to effect their desires, in this manner: There was one *Mæsa*, a woman of \* *Phenicia*, borne in the City *Emesa*, whose sister *Iulia* was wife to *Severus*, and mother to *Antonine*; who in her sisters life-time, had lived many yeares in *Severus* and *Antonines* Court. This *Mæsa*, after

*Mæsa.*  
\* See M.G.  
*Sands* Description of  
it in his  
Journal,  
p. 207.

after her sisters decease, and *Antonines* murther, was commanded by *Macrinus*, to take her goods, & remove into her native country. Now she had great store of coine, which she gathered all the while she lived in so flourishing an estate. And being now old, she returned to her old home. She had two daughters, the elder named *Soromis*, the younger *Mamma*, that had a son called *Bastianus*; this, another, called *Alexianus*: both bred up with their mothers & Grandmother. *Bastianus* was upon the point of fourteene yeares, and *Alexianus* often: both Priests of the *Sun*, which is worshipped (as a god by the Phoenicians, and termed (in their language) *Hellogabalus*: to whom they built a stately Temple, bravely adorned with gold, silver and precious stones. Nor is the *Sun* onely adored by them,

but

The Temple of the Sunne.

but also by the bordering Princes and Kings of the Barbarians, which yeerely strive who shall send him the most costly Donaries. This god hath no Image to represent him, that is made with hands, after the Greeke and Roman fashion; but there is onely a huge great\* stone, all round from the bottome, and sharp towards the top, like a \* Cone. The stone is of a black colour, & they confidently affirme that it fell from heaven. Some shining spots there are in it, and divers figures. This (they say) is the *Suns* Image, not made by human art. To this god was *Bastianus* sacred, as being the elder Son; and therefore did he execute the Priests Office, being vested (after the Barbarian Rites) with gold-embroidered coats, with hanging sleeves reaching downe to the foot. His undergarments, which covered him

all

V. Io Selden  
 & *ma'v' de*  
 Dis Syris.  
 Synt. c. i.  
 \* Or Spie.

The Image of the Sun.

*Bastianus*

all over frō his hands to his legs, were likewise cloath of gold tiffued upon purple: his head was adorned with a rich crown of precious stones. Hee was a delicate gracefull youth, and of so sweet an aspect, that hee was held the wonder of his time. So that his beauty, age, shape, and costly habit corresponding, he might not unfitly be compared to the dainty Images of *Bacchus*. This brave young priestling as he sacrificed, and caperd about the Altars, to the musick of flutes, pipes and all kind of instruments, was curiously eyed of all, but especially of the Roman Souldiers, either because they knew he was of imperiall linage, or because his attractive beauty drew all their eyes upon him: for at that time a great army was quartered neere to that \* City, for defence of *Phenicia*; being soone after lead

\* *Emesa*.

thence,

thence, as we shal hereafter shew. The souldiers therefore daily repairing to the citie and temple, under colour of devotion, were ravisht with the sight of so rare a creature. Now many of them being *Romane* fugitives, were familiarly acquainted with *Mesa*: who (when they extold his favour) told them (whether truly or no, is uncertaine) that he was son to *Antonine*, (though he were reputed anothers) who lay with her yong faire daughters in the time of her abode with her sister at the Emperors Court. Which when they heard, and had told their fellows, the bruit of it flew thorow all the army. It was also reported, that *Mesa* had great store of treasure, and would give it all to the Souldiers, if they would render the Empire to her nephewes. Whereupon they promising to receive her & all hers,

and

and proclaim *Antonines* son Em-  
 peror, if she would come secret-  
 ly in the night to the campe, the  
 old woman resolved to undergo  
 any hazard, rather than live a  
 private obscure life. Wherefore,  
 issuing privily out of the citie in  
 the night with her children and  
 nephewes, she was conducted by  
 the troupe of fugitives to the ar-  
 my; where all the souldiers wel-  
 comed her, and proclaiming the  
 Boy, *Antonine*, clothed him in a  
 purple robe of State. Then fetch-  
 ing into the camp all her pro-  
 vision, together with her daugh-  
 ters, & their husbands, & what-  
 soever goods or cattell she had  
 in the fields and villages, they  
 victualled & fortified the camp,  
 that (if need were) they might  
 hold out a siege. Whē this news  
 was brought to *Macrinus* lying  
 then at *Antioch*, the army there,  
 understanding likewise (by re-  
 port

*Rasians* a  
 yong Priest  
 proclaimed  
 Emperour.

port) that *Antonines* sonne was  
 found out, and that *Iuliaes* sister  
 had given great store of silver to  
 the Souldiers, they beleevved all  
 to be infallibly true, and began  
 to waver, and take new resoluti-  
 ons, being excited therto, both  
 by the grudge they bore *Macri-  
 nus*, & commiseration (as it were)  
 of the memory of *Antoninus* but  
 especially for the hope of cash:  
 inso much, that many presently  
 fled to this new found *Antonine*.

*Macrinus* scorning all this, as  
 \* Boyes-play, and being as jovi-  
 all as ever, stirred not himselfe,  
 but sends one of his Captaines  
 with certaine companies, which  
 he thought sufficient to tame the  
 rebels. As soone as *Iulian* (so the  
 Captaine was called) approched  
 the Campe walls, instantly the  
 souldiers that were within, shew-  
 ed the Boy to the adverse army,  
 from the Turrets and Pinnacles,  
 pro-

\* *ὁ δὲ μακρί-  
 νος.*

proclaiming him to be *Antonines* son, and holding up their purses full of money (as a bait to betray *Macrinus*.) Whereupon the souldiers without, believing he was *Antonines* son, and perswading themselves, he did exceedingly resemble him in face and lineaments, struck off their Captaine *Julians* head, and sent it to *Macrinus*. Which done, the camp gates were opened and all let in. Thus were their numbers increast to a competent Army, not onely to hold out a siege, but also to fight a battell, being augmented also by the accessse of others, that in great troopes revolted to them. Which *Macrinus* understanding, rouzes up his spirits, and leades forth all his Army to assaile the Campe. But *Antonines* Souldiers, not intending to indure a siege, march into the field. Both the armies met on the borders of *Syria* and

*Julian* be-headed.

& *Phaenicia*; but *Antonines* fought more fiercely, as knowing they should be soundly punished if they were overcōe: on the other side, *Macrinus* was more faint & remiss, & many of them fled to *Antonine*. Which when *Macrinus* saw, fearing lest all leaving him to the 4 winds, he should be taken prisoner, and villanously intreated: whē it grew toward the evening, he stript himselfe of his Purple \*surcoat, and other Imperiall or-

The battell  
betwixt  
*Macrinus* &  
*Basian*, or  
*Antonine*. 2

\* *χλαμύς*  
*σιον*.

*Macrinus*  
flies.

O

sent

sent from him about extraordinary affaires. Thus he escaped by flight. Meane while, both armies fought; *Macrinus* his guard (termed the *Pratorian Band*) <sup>\* *ἡρωαίως*.</sup> bravely maintaining fight against the whole Power of the enemy; for they were the tallest and choicest men that could be found. All the other multitude fought for *Antonine*. But when *Macrinus* his men, after a great while, neither saw him, nor any signe of sovereignty, not knowing whether he were slain, or fled, or what was become of him, they were in a great maze; for they determined to engage themselves no longer for him that was not to be seen; and yet they feared to come into their enemies hands by yielding themselves prisoners. When *Antonine* understood by the Renegades that *Macrinus* was fled, he sent his Heralds to certifie the same, and to bid them not to fight for an

\* unmanly fugitive; that he pardoned them all that was past, and would confirme the pardon by oath, & the better to assure them, would make them presently his Guard. Thus all giving credit to the Heralds, yielded. Instantly *Antonine* sends to pursue *Macrinus* that was now gotten a great way on his journey: he was found at *Chalcedon*, <sup>\* *ἀνάνδρως*.</sup> a City of *Bithynia*, <sup>\* *Chalcedon*, a Sea-City, situate in view of *Byzantium*. *Strabo* l. 12. *Macrinus* beheaded.</sup> grievously sicke and over-toiled with travel, being hid in the suburbs, where they stricke off his head. It was said that hee made such haste to *Rome* relying on the peoples love, but as hee was passing into *Europe* over the *Proponticke Gulfe* (being come neere to *Byzantium*) hee was driven backe by contrary Gusts, as if the Winds themselves had conspired to his punishment. Thus *Macrinus* not being able to escape his pursuers, came to a miserable  
O 2                      miserable

Diadumenianus Caesar

scerable end (through his providence) determining to goe to *Rome* at last, which he should have done first of all; having neither good fore-sight, nor good fortune: his son *Diadumenianus* (whom he had made *Cæsar*) being slaine also with him. When all the army had saluted *Antonine* Emperour, and he was now established in the soveraignty, the orientall affaires being ordered (as was requisite) by his Grandmother and friends (for he was very young and of no experience) he made no long stay there, but prepared for his journey to *Rome*. *Mæsa* longing to returne to the Palace, where shee had so long flourished. When intimation hereof was given to the Roman Peeres and people, it was heavie newes to all. *Antonine* marching out of *Syria*, wintered at *Nicomedia*, (the season so requiring.)

Antonine winters at Nicomedia.

There

There he fell to his hiddygiddy \*veneration of his country Dei- \* ἱερεὺς ty (whose Priest he was) with antique dances; attired in rich *Sacerdotall* vestments of gold, tissued on Purple; adorned with jewels and armelets: and wearing coronets of gold and precious stones, made like a Persian diadem. The fashion of his habite was betwixt the long robe of the Phœnicians, and the apparel of the Medes. For he scorned the Greek & Roman attire, as made of wooll, that is (as he termed it) of base stufte; not daining any other weare. but *Syrian* silks & go- Συρια. ing abroad usually with a noise of flutes & shalms, as at his sacrificing solemnities. Which *Mæsa* much dislusting, humbly besought him to put himself into the Roman habit, lest entering the City and \* *Curia* in that exoticke and barbarous garbe he should be an

\* Parliament house

O 3

cye-

\* καλλω-  
τισματα.

eye-fore to the beholders not used to such gaudy & garish dresses\*, which they would judge fitter for women than men. But he rejecting her as an old doting foole, and refusing all good Counsell (for hee would have none about him, but such phantasticks as himsele, which soothed him in his vicious humors) resolved to weare no other fashion, & therefore meant to try a conclusion, how the Roman Senate and people would like it. Whereupon he sent to *Rome* his owne picture (at large) in his superfine Pontificalibus, and withall, the Image of his patriall god, whose Priest he was; commanding them that carried it, to place it on high, in the midst of the *Curia*, over the Image of victory; that when the Senate assembled, all the nobles might burne Incense, & sacrifice wine before it.

Also

He sends  
his Picture  
to *Rome*.

Also he made an Edict, that all the Roman Magistrates, and Sacrificers, should, before all other Gods that they remembred at their devotions, pray to the new God *Heliogabalus*. Wherefore when (afterward) he entred *Rome* in the aforesayd Habit, hee was no Novelty to them, having bin used to his Picture. Giving therefore great Donatives to the people (as new Emperors are wont) he exhibited all kinde of stately Shewes; and erected to his God a most gorgeous Temple, wherein were many altars, on which every morning he sacrificed hundreds of Beeves, and great numbers of Sheep. Burning also huge heaps of all manner of redolent Odors on the Altars, he powred out [in Sacrifice] many Rundlets of the daintiest old Wines, so that streams of wine & bloud intermixt, ran over all the Tem-

His Acts at  
*Rome*.



\* By these dances, the Gentiles intimated, that every part of their body was to be employed in the service of their Gods.

ple. Then tell hee to \* dance about the Altars, to a Consort of all kinde of Instruments, divers of his Country-women capring and skipping with him, as they played on Cymballs and Timbrels; while all the Nobility and order of Knighthood, stood gazing at these Gambolls (as Spectators in a Theater.) Moreover, the entrails of the Sacrifices, and Aromatickes, layd on Golden Plates, were borne not by Servants and meane Persons; but by Generalls of Armies, and the chiefe Officers of State, vested in long Robes with Hanging sleeves (after the Phœnician fashion) and shod with Linnen shooes, like Syrian Prophets. Whom he admitted to these Mysteries, he accounted to have highly honored. And though hee seemed wholly devoted to Dances and Sacrifices, yet he kept more tragical

gicall Revells; executing many *Antonines* wealthy and noble persons, with *crueltie*.

(as he was informed) tooke small pleasure in those things; and now and then scoffed him. He tooke

*His marriages.*

to wife the most illustrious of all the Romane Ladies; whom hee called *Augusta*, yet soon after divorced her, & stripping her of all honors, sequestred her to a private life. After, pretending hee was in love, and intending now to shew his manhood, he violently

tooke out of *Vestæes* sacred nunnery at *Rome*, a Vestall Virgin (who by the Divine Lawes was to continue in chastitie and virginity to her end) and married her. And when he heard that the Senate was much aggrieved at that sacrilegious act, he set them a consolatory Letter; certifying

them, *That it was but a humane passion; That he was enchanted with the magicke of her beauty, and that it was*

\* *Pomp. Larus* says, they might marry after 30 years of age. *Lib. de Sacer. Rom.*

*Antonines* Letter to the Senate.

no incongruities, for a Priest to marry a \* Priestesse: which was therefore a most sacred match. But this wife he kept not long, but cashiering her, took a third, which was said to be of *Commodus* Linage. Nor did he thus play at fast and loose with human marriages, but now his God also (whose Priest he was) wanted a wife. He took therefore into his bedchamber the Image of \* *Pallas*, which the *Romans* kept in secret veneration, unseene of any; and till that day had never beene removed since it was brought from *Troy*, but only when the Temple was \* fired: and so hee married that Goddess and his God together in his Palace. Soon after, giving out, that his God liked not such a Marriall wife, that was ever in armes; he commanded the Image of *Vrania* to be brought: Which having bin exceedingly adored by

\* *Ispeias*.  
He marries Gods together.  
\* Three cubits high, holding a Speare in the right hand, and a Sp. in the left.  
\* It lost the High priest Metellus his Eyes, to rescue it out of the flames.

by the *Carthaginians* & *Africans*, was erected, as they say, by Queene *Dido* (the *Phœnician*) what time she reedified *Carthage*, by cutting an \* Oxehide. This goddess the *Africans* call *Vrania*, the *Phœnicians*, \* *Astroarch*, or the *Moone*. *Antonine* said, it would agree bravely, to marry the *Sun* & *Moone* together. He sent therefore for the Image, & all the treasure and gold in the Temple; giving it to his God, for a Portion with her. When the Image was brought & set neer to *Heliogabalus*, he commanded all the people of *Rome* and *Italy* to use all publique & private feasts and exhilarations for joy of the gods wedding. He erected also in the Suburbs a mighty and magnificent Temple, into which every yeare (about mid summer) he brought his God; recreating the people (as he thought) with Chariot-races,

\* *Dido* bought of the *Lybians* so much Ground as an Ox-hide might compass: then cutting it into small thongs, she inclosed 22 furlongs, and there built *Carthage*.  
\* Queene of *Sarres*. *Vid. Selden de Dis Syris*.  
He married the *Sun* and *Moon*.

races, stage-plaies, feasts & night-  
 \* Masques. shewes\*. Hee brought his God  
 out of the citie into the suburbs,  
 placed in a Caroach adorned  
 with gold and most precious  
 stones, & drawn with sixe good-  
 ly white steeds, decked with rare  
 gold-worke and rich caparisons.  
 There was no man in the charer,  
 but al attended about it, as if the  
 God had driven it. *Antonine* run-  
 ning backward with his face to-  
 wards the Image, went before  
 the charer, leading the horses by  
 the reines; going all the way  
 back-ward (in that sort) still loo-  
 king on the God. Lest he should  
 fall or stumble, the way was  
 strowed with filings of gold;  
 and his guard supported him on  
 each side for his more safety;  
 the people running along with  
 torches, & throwing flowers &  
 garland. This pompous shew  
 was honoured with the Images  
 of

The in-  
 thronizati-  
 on of *He-  
 liogabalus*.

of all the Gods, and the most  
 sumptuous Donaries that were  
 in the Temples; as also with the  
 Imperiall \* jewels & ornaments: \* *κεκμηλα*  
 All the nobility, gentry, and sould-  
 diery accompanying it. When  
 hee had shrin'd his God in the  
 Temple, hee solemnized the a-  
 bove mentioned Sacrifices and  
 Festivities. Then he ascended ex-  
 ceeding high turrets purposely  
 made for him: whence he threw  
 (as a largesse) among the people, *A strange largesse.*  
 gold and silver plate, and all kind  
 of rich apparell and fine linnen:  
 also all manner of tame beasts,  
 \* except swine; which he (as all \* This was  
 the Phœnicians) abhorred. Ma- done by  
 ny there perished, being either throwing  
 trod to death, or thrust thorow little balles  
 with the souldiers pikes: so that or tickets,  
 it proved a fatall festivall to ma- which were  
 ny. He oft used his charret-sports warrants  
 and wild dances in publick, not for receipt of  
 caring who saw his unprincely the largesse.  
 pranks.

pranks. He walked abroad with his eyes painted, and cheeks purpled, disfiguring his faire face with foule tinctures. Which

*\*Mæsa* perceiving, mistrusted the souldiers dislike; and fearing if ought came to him, she should be remanded to a privat life, she perswades the vain young fondling to adopt for his son, and declare

*\*Cæsar*, his couzen Germane and her Grand-childe by her other daughter *Mammaea*: speaking him fair, & finely instilling into him, *That it was most meet, that he being dignified with the sacred Title of a Priest, should attend onely on matters of Religion, and the celebration of divine Orgies and Offices; and that some other should bee substituted to mannage humane affaires, and be as his Vice-roy, to free him from all cares and encumbrances of State: yet no stranger or alien, but rather his Couzen German to be so honoured by his Prince-*

*\*His Grand mother.*

*\*The title of the heire apparant.*

princely favour. *Alexianus* was he, then named *Alexander*, his old name being changed into that of the Macedonian kings: for that famous king was much honored by *Antonine* (son to *Severus*) who was both their father, as the old beldam pretended: not sparing to vaunt of both her daughters dishonesty, to make their sons more gracious with the souldiers. *Alex-*

*ander* therefore was proclaimed *Cæsar*, and made Confull (or As-sociat) with *Antonine*: the Senate ridiculously decreeing what hee commanded; to wit, him to bee the father, that was 16 yeres old, and *Alexander* the son, that was 12 yeaes old. After that *Alexander* was made *Cæsar*, *Antonine* assaied to train him to his courses, as dancing, revelling, sacrificing, & the like rites, & robes, & ceremonies. But his mother *Mammaea* weaned him from those vain and

*Alexander made Cæsar*

\*Wrestling  
a princely  
exercise.

Stage-play-  
ers prefer-  
red.

unseemely exercises, and trained him up in honorable fashion, secretly sending for professors of the Mathematicks, & all liberall sciences, & using him to \*Wrestlings and such manly activities: instituting him also in Greek and Roman literature. Whereat *Antonine* much repining, repented that he had adopted him, or made him his colleague in the Empire; and expelled all his tutors from the Court, putting some of the chiefe of them to death, and banishing others: allcading ridiculously, that the pedants spoiled his son, not suffering him to dance and revell, but teaching him to be modest, and use manly exercises. Yea, he was so besotted, that he preferred all sorts of theatricall Actors and Players to the highest honours and most eminent dignities; making Lord Generall of his Armies one that in

in his youth was a publick dancer on the theater He appointed one Stage-player, trainer and guardian \* of the young Lords and Gentlemen; another, to be Lord President of his Councel; and a third, generall of the horse. He advanced to the chiefe places of trust in the Empire, charact-drivers, comedians, and histrionicall lesters; bestowing on his servants and \* libertines that were most extremly debauched, the Procuratorships of Provinces. At this mad and drunken distribution of so many honourable offices, all men murmured, but especially the souldiers stormed, and scorned him, as being more effeminate than an honest woman would be; and detested him for prostituting the Imperiall Majesty to contempt, by his capricious dresses, golden gewgawes, and publike Revels. They were

\*Or master  
of the  
Wards.

\* Bondmen  
for free.

were therefore more inclinable to *Alexander*, conceiving faire hopes of him for his noble and vertuous education; and conser-ving him diligently from the in-fidious practices of *Antonine*. His mother *Mammaa* suffered him not to taste any meate or drinke that he sent. His Cookes and Cup-bearers were not those that waited on the Emperor, but such trusty servants as his mother made choise of. Shee gave him also much mony in private, to bestow on the Souldiers se-cretly; to win them to him with that bait, which she knew would soonest catch them. Which *An-tonine* understanding, plotted to destroy him and his mother; but his plots were prevented by their common Grand-mother *Mæsa*; a subtill woman, and a po-liticke dame; as having lived ma-ny yeares in the Imperiall Pa-lace

A Politicke  
Lady.

lace, with her sister *Julia*, wife to *Severus*, whereby shee was well read in State affaires. For shee knew all the designs of *Anto-nine*, who was naturally a blab, and would ordinarily lay him-selfe open, and divulge all his in-tentions. When hee could not surprize him by treachery, hee determined to strip him of his *Cæsarean* dignity; not permitting him to be saluted, or go abroad. Then the souldiers enquired for him, and were much discontented, that hee should be deposed. Whereupon *Antonine* disperes a fame, that *Alexander* was like to die, to try how the Souldiers would take it. They, when they could not see the young Prince, were cut to the heart with the report; and being infinitely en-ra-ged, sent not the usuall guards to *Antonine*, but lockt themselves in the Campe; demanding to see *Alexander*

*Alexander* in their Temple. *Antonine* startled at this, takes *Alexander*, and places him with him in his Imperiall Carroach, richly adorned with gold & gems; and hies to the Campe. The souldiers opening the Gates, received them, & conducted them to the Temple of the Campe; exceedingly congratulating and welcoming *Alexander*, but coldly saluting *Antonine*; which hee storming at, after hee had lodged all night in the Campe-Temple; was so incensed at the souldiers for doing such speciall honor to *Alexander*, that he commanded the chiefe and most note<sup>d</sup> (for it) to be apprehended & executed as Authors of sedition and mutiny. Whereat all the Souldiers being exasperated, and having formerly hated *Antonine*, they resolved to rescue their fellowes, and put away that abominable Prince.

Iudge-

Judging this therefore to bee a just occasion, and faire opportunity; they presently slew *Antonine*, and his mother *Soemio*, <sup>*Antonine*  
slaine.</sup> who was with him (as Empresse) with all their Privadoes, and Instruments of lewdnesse that came with them into the Camp. Then delivered they to the people, the Carcasses of *Antonine* & *Soemio*; w<sup>ch</sup> being disgracefully dragged a long time over all the City, and lastly dismembred, were throwne into the publicke jakes, which are voided into the River \* *Tyber*. The Souldiers \* *Ou'Ger*. proclaiming *Alexander* Emperour, conducted him to the Royall Palace; being very young, and yet in the tuition of his mother and grand. mother.

*The End of the Fifth Booke.*

## Appendix to Herodians fift Booke of his History.

### To the Readers.

**H**erodian having lively drawne (in little) that Monster of Ethnick Priests and Princes, *Pseud-Antonine*, I have thought good to adjoyne (for your further satisfaction) this insuing Delineation of him, extracted out of divers ancient & principal Authors.



His Apparell was extreame brave and gorgeous: yet hee never wore one Garment twice. His Shooes were embellisht with Diamonds, and Oriental Pearles of the most Carats. His Seats were strewed with Muske and Amber. His Beds were covered with Cloth of Gold rissued on Purple, and imbossed with Gems of inestimable value. His Way was strewed with Filings of Gold and Silver. His Vessells, even of basest Use, were of Obryze Gold. His Lamps burned with precious Balms & Gums of India and Arabia. His Fish-ponds were filled with Rose-water. His Ships in his Theatricall Sea-fights floated in Rivers of Wine. His \* Bathes, most magnificently built, when he had once used them, were still pluckt down, and new built. His Plate of refined massive Gold; but never served twice to his Table. His Rings and Jewels infinitely rich, yet never worn twice. His Concubines number-  
lesse,

\*Bathing was as ordinary with Romans, as eating and sleeping. See an Antiquity of a Roman Bath or Stove (lately discovered neere Leicester) related in the Description of that County, by that worthy Patriarch and judicious Antiquary Wil. Burton Esquire.

lesse, but never laine with twice. Every Supper in his Court cost 1000 pounds sterling. When hee lay neere to the Sea, hee would eat no Fish: When he was farthest in the Continent, hee would eat no Flesh. Whole Meales were furnisht with Tongues of Singing Birds, and Braines of rarest Creatures. All Europe, Asia, and Africke, with the Ilands adjacent; in a word, the Globe of Earth and \* Sea (where of he was Lord Paramount) was not able to fill this Gulph. In his Progresses, he was attended by 600 Charriots fraught with Concubines, Catamites, and Pandars: for whom he built a Seraglio in his Court; where himselfe (in the habit of a Curtezan) used to make solemn speeches to them, terming them his brave Fellow-Souldiers and Companions in Armes: [What gallant Instructions he gave them, I forbear to mention.] He caused to be gathered in Rome \* ten thousand weight of Spices, ten thousand Mice, and a thousand Pelicans; which he exhibited to the Roman Peeres and People, in a publicke Shew and Solemnity: professing, that now he perfectly understood how mighty a City Rome was. Lastly [to omit other more strange pranks:] he summoned a \* Parliament of Women, to consult about Tires, Fashions, Dresses, Tinctures, and the like weighty and important Affaires.

\* As farre as was the discovered to the Romans.

\* Vid. Lips. de magnit. Romana.

\* Senatum

FINIS.





# HERODIAN HIS IMPERIAL HISTORIE.

*The sixth Booke.*

## The Contents.

**A**lexander *Emperour. The Religion and State reformed. Mæsa Deified. Alexanders Elogie. His Marriage. Persians invade the Romanes. Alexander writes to the Persian; who scornes his Letters. General Muster in Italy. Alexander marches against the Persian. An Embassy. Another braving Embassy. Embassadors punished. Alexanders Policie, Archery. Armenian Mountains. The Romans defeated. Alexander retires. Best Physicke for Souldiers. Germany rebels. Alexander comes to the Rhine. Archers. Heralds. Maximine described and elected Emperour. Alexander slaine.* Wee



He have formerly declared in what manner *Alexander Antonine* (the elder brother) ended his dayes. After him *Alexander* had the title and ornaments of Emperour; but the management of affaires, and regencie of the Empire rested in *Mæsa* and *Mamma*; who laboured to reduce all things to better order and moderation. *Mæsa and Mamma Regents.*

And first they selected out of the Senate 16. ancient, grave, and honourable Peeres, for assistants and counsellors to the Prince: without whose suffrage & consent, nothing was to passe as an act of State. Which manner of government was wondrous pleasing to the People, Souldiers and Senators; the Empire being thereby reduced from an injurious Tyrannie, to the forme of an *\* Optimacte.*

Their prime care was to re-  
P store

*\* Agreement of the principall men.*

Religion  
first reformed.

Next, the  
State.

N. B.

\* ἐν ταῖς  
τοῖς πᾶσι  
πολεμικαῖς  
καὶ ἑσπέραις.  
In which  
words the  
excellent au-  
thour hath  
corrupted both  
the parts of  
war: viz  
Tactick and  
Strategema-  
tick.

Mæsa dies,  
& is deified  
\* At a Wo-  
mans deifi-  
cation, they  
used a pea-  
cocke (into  
which they  
supposed her  
soul to sit)  
as an Eagle  
at a Mens  
See this fu-

store the Images of the Gods  
(removed and displaced By *An-  
tonine*) to their owne ancient  
Temples and Oratories. Next,  
all that hee had advanced to ho-  
nors and offices, either without  
desert, or for their lewd pranks,  
they discharged and degraded;  
commanding every of them to  
follow their former trades and  
professions. All civill and judici-  
ary offices they bestowed on fa-  
mous learned men and excellent  
Lawyers: and all places of mar-  
tiall command they gave to  
brave noble Captaines, & Soul-  
diers, expert in \* Marshalling of  
Armies, and Military Exploits.

The Empire being thus admi-  
nistrated a long time, *Mæsa* being  
now very old, deceased; and was  
buried like an empress; being af-  
ter the Roman fashion, \* deified.

*Mamma* being now sole Re-  
gent and Guardian of her Son,  
fol.

followed still the same tracke of  
government. When he came to  
his age, to manage the state him-  
selfe, shee fearing lest his unstaide  
youth might in that height of li-  
berty & sovereignty, precipitate  
him into the vices and vanities  
incident thereto; set a strong  
Watch about the Court, prohi-  
biting all lewd and loose persons  
from his presence, lest his good  
nature should be corrupted, and  
his minde provoked to lust by  
bewitching Syrens, and fawning  
Parasites. Shee perswaded him al-  
so to attend matters of Iudica-  
ture \* the best part of the day;  
to keepe him from Idlenesse, the  
Mistress of all lewdnesse. *Alexan-  
der* (indeed) was naturally ador-  
ned with Affability, Clemencie,  
and other Princely graces (as was  
afterwards apparant in the course  
of his life.) For in 14 yeares, his  
Empire was not stayned with

preme solemn-  
ity, descri-  
bed in the  
beginning of  
the 4 book of  
this History.

\* Διὰ τὴν

*Alexanders*  
Elogie.

bloud: not one being put to death (by him) all the while. And though divers were convict of haynous crimes, yet hee spared their lives: which you shal hardly finde to have bin done by any Emperour since *Marcus*. None can remember that in all the time of his Raigne, there was any executed without Iudiciall Proceffe. He much blamed his Mother, & was very angry with her, for her greedy covetousnesse of money, and accumulating of riches. For *Mammaea* pretending to hoord up Coin, to supply *Alexanders* bounty to the Souldiers, got a great Masse of Treasure to her selfe. Which, although it were much disliked in her, and condemned by the Emperour; yet did her violent practices in spoyling the good and estates, bring him, to his obloquy & disgrace. She gave him a wife

of

of a noble Family; whom hee dearly loved: but she soon after banisht her the Court. For, arrogating to her selfe alone the title of Empresse; and maligning her Daughter in-lawes honour, shee proceeded to that outrage, that the young Empresses Father, though in great esteeme with *Alexander* (his son in law) not able to indure the many wrongs shee did him and his Daughter, fled into the Camp: professing he was much obliged to the Emperour for doing him that honour, but accusing *Mammaea* for her opprobrious injuries. Whereat, the being the more exasperated, commanded him to be slain; and having expelled the young Lady from the Court, confined her to *Africke*. All which was done without *Alexanders* consent, & meere-ly against his will: for his Mother caried a high and imperious

P 3

hand

hand over him, and he tenderly reuer'd and obeyed her in all things: so that his main error was too much softnesse, & over great obsequiounes to his mother, in things w<sup>ch</sup> himself disapproved.

Having thus ruled the Empire thirteene yeares, without any grievance (in regard of his owne particular) suddenly in the fourteenth yeare, there came letters from the Presidents of Syria and Mesopotamia, certifying; *That Artaxerxes King of Persia having conquered the Parthians, and slaine Artabanus (who was the first that was called, The great King, and wore a double Diadem) did likewise subdue and make Tributary the bordering Barbarians: and not containing himselfe within the River Tigris, had transpassed the banks and bounds of the Roman Empire, and made a roade into Mesopotamia, threatening to invade Syria, and*

The Parthian king  
slaine.

A double  
diadem.

The Persians  
invade  
the Romans

challen-

*challenging the \* opposite continent \* The letters to Europe (limited by the Aegean Sea, and Propontick Gulfe, and called Asia) as the ancient Patrimony of the Persians: in that, from Cyrus (who first translated the Empire of the Medes to the Persians) until Darius the last Persian King (deposed by Alexander) all those Countries, as far as Ionia and Caria, were ruled by Persian Vice-royes: and therefore, he held himselfe bound in honor to recover all that w<sup>ch</sup> was anciently under the Persian Scepter* When Alexander received this small newes from the Eastern parts, he was not a little perplext and troubled, having beene ever trained (from a child) in peace and tranquility, and nuzled in City-delights: advising therefore with his Councel, he first resolved to send Embassadours with letters to stop the Barbarians proceedings. The letters were to this effect:

Alexanders  
Letters to  
the Persian,

fe Et: That he ought to containe him-  
selfe within his bounds : and not in  
vaine hope of new Conquests , raise  
wars and stirs. That every one ought  
to rest content with his owne estate.  
That he would find great difference  
in fight betwixt Romans and his fel-  
low Barbarians. Lastly, he put him in  
mind of the victories which Augu-  
stus, Trajan, Lucius & Severus had  
obtained against them. With these  
letters Alexander perswaded him-  
selfe he should over-rule the Bar-  
barian and make him quiet. But  
he scorning them, and holding it  
his best course to fight rather than  
talk, was now more rampāt than  
ever: ranging over all *Mesopotamia*,  
taking great booties, and assailing  
the *Romā* camps that were pitcht  
on the river banks, to defend the  
limits of the Empire. Being also  
naturally of a high spirit and  
haughty minde, which by this  
sudden successe was much more ele-

The Persi-  
an scornes  
them.

elevated, hee thought he should  
conquer all afore him. Hee had  
great encouragements to enlarge  
his Dominions, being the first  
that attempted the Parthians, and  
recovered the kingdome to the  
Persians: for after *Darius*, whom  
*Alexander* the Macedon conquere-  
d, the Macedonians and *Alex-  
anders* successors for many yeres  
divided among them the princi-  
pality of the orientall Provinces  
over all *Asia*. But when by their  
civill wars and discords, the Ma-  
cedonians & the rest were weak-  
ned, *Arfaces* the Parthian did (as  
they say) first perswade the bar-  
barous people of these countries  
to revolt from the Macedonians:  
and being crowned King by the  
Parthians and adjoyning Barba-  
rians, he held the kingdome: and  
left it to his posterity, which en-  
joyed it untill the raign of *Artas-  
banus* (in our time) slaine by *Ar-*

taxes, who reunited that kingdom to the Persian Monarchy, and having brought in subjection the adjacent Barbarians began to trench on the Roman territories, Which *Alexander* understanding, and knowing it concerned him in a high degree of justice & honor, not to suffer the insolent Barbarian any longer, (his commanders earnestly importuning him to come in person) with much ado, at last he prepares to set forward (against his owne inclination:) and now there were General musters through all *Italy*, and the *Romane* Provinces, of the strongest and ablest persons for the wars; great hurli-burlies being in all parts of the Empire, about training the choicest that might be found, to encounter the barbarous multitude. *Alexander* assembling into the field all the Souldiers which were quartered

A generall  
muster.

tered neere the City, spake thus to them from his Throne:

### *Alexanders* Speech to the Army.

I could wish (my brave Fellow-souldiers) that I might as heretofore speak such things to you, as were to my applause, and your content. It may be that after so long peace, an unexpected war may somewhat dismay you. "But  
"it is the part of generous and temperate men to pray for the best; and be  
"content with that which happens; for  
"as those things which wee performe  
"with pleasure, are delightfull: so valiant Exploits necessarily undertaken, are most glorious: And as hee  
"that first offers wrong deserves small  
"favour; so he that redresses a wrong  
"is more confident, as having a good  
"conscience; and more courageous, in  
"that hee offers nothing but repells it. Artaxerxes the Persian, having  
"traiterously slaine his Sovereign Artabanus, and translated his Kingdom to the Persians, hath presumed also to  
"bid us Battaille, and in despite of the

Romans.

Roman majesty, hath begun to invade and destroy our Provinces. At first, I thought good to write to him, to desist from that insatiate fury of coveting other mens Estates: But he in his barbarous pride is so far from containing himselfe in his owne Limits, that hee challenges us to fight. Let us not therefore refuse the Challenge, nor fore-slow the Warre; but you, which are Veterans, make him know, that you are they that under the conduct of Severus and my Father Antonine, got those famous Victories over the Barbarians. And you which are young Souldiers, must strive for honour and glory, that all may know, you are not onely well disciplin'd to obey in time of peace, but that also in time of warre when need requires, you are able to make full demonstration of your Valour. The Barbarians are very fierce against them that shrink, or come on slowly: but if they be furiously charged, they are soon calmed. For it is not their manner to attempt the Victory by pitch Battels: but to make sudden predatory Excursions, and then runne away: thinking they have gayned sufficiently by foraging

ging the countrey. But we, with our fair and wel-ordred armies, have put them to the worst, & returned conquerors.

Alexander having thus said, the souldiers by their generall cry exprest their alacrity and readinesse to march: wherfore giving them large pay, hee commands them to prepare for the voyage, & having made another speech (of like effect) to the Senate, he appoints a day for his departure: which being come, and the usual sacrifices & ceremonies performed, (all the Senate and City attending him) hee departs from Rome, oftē looking back towards the City, and weeping. Neither <sup>Alexander</sup> was there any of the people <sup>beloved of</sup> parted from him with drie eies: <sup>all.</sup> so dearly were they devoted to him, being bred amongst them, & having reigned so many years with such rare moderatiō. With speedy journeyes hee visited the

the *Illyrian* Nations and armies, and taking great forces from thence with him, he marched to *Antioch*, where he made diligent preparation for all warlike necessities, still attending the training of Souldiers and other Martiall exercises. Here again (hoping to end the war by Treatie) hee sent another Embassie to the Persian King, to conclude a peace, & contract a league with him. For being come so far in person, he was in hope either to perswade him, or at least to terrifie him. But the *Barbarian* prince proudly rejects the *Roman* Embassadors, & sends 400 of his tallest Persians in brave & rich attire as Heralds or embassadors, mounted on goodly courfers, with their gay bowes and arrowes, thinking the *Romans* would be danted with the sight and habit of the Persians. His embassage was this, *The great King*

He marches  
to *Antioch*.

An Embas-  
sie.

*King Artaxerxes commands the Romans and their Prince, to depart out of all Syria, and Asia\* that is opposite to Europe; to permit the Persians to rule as far as Ionia & Caria, & over all those countries which are divided by the Aegean and Pontick sea, and by patrimoniall right belong to the Persians. These 400 Embassadors Alexander commanded to bee apprehended, & stripping them of their Persian gallantry, banisht them into Phrygia, assigning them certaine villages for dwelling, and fields for tillage: contenting himselfe to punish them by debarring their returne into their native countrie; it being (as he thought) an \* unholy deed, & unmanly act to put them to death that fought not, but only executed their Soveraignes command. This done, Alexander being about to passe over the rivers, and lead his Army into the Bar-*

A braving  
Embassie.

\* Asia mi-  
nor.

Embassa-  
dors pu-  
nished.

\* ἀνομιαν.



Alexanders  
policie.

Barbarians countrey, many Ægyptian souldiers revolted from him; and others began to make a commotion in *Syria*: but they were soone suppressed and punished. *Alexander* also sent some Forces into other countries, to prevent the Barbarians incursions. All which things being set in order, and having now a great armie, not inferior to the enemy, he divided it (by his counsels advice) into three Battalions, commanding one to march Northward through *Armenia* (which seem'd to be in friendly termes with the Romans) and that way to invade the Borders of *Media*; another likewise, to passe by the North through the Barbarian countries, where *Tigris* and *Euphrates* meet, & are drowned in great Marishes and lakes; whence it is unknown how they are disemboged; the third, being the best part of the army

army, himself undertook to lead against the Barbarians, & assaile them in the midst. By this means he thought to take the unprovided, invading the several wayes, and that the Persian forces would be much distracted & weakned, and so lesse able to resist the Romans by being dispersed to encounter them in places so far determined. For the Barbarians have no mercenary bands (as the Romans use) nor any set Camps or veterane Armies that are still exercised in Martiall discipline: but all their men (and women too sometimes) are mustered together at the Kings command: and after the war, return to their houses, taking (for their pay) all the booties they get. They use shooting and riding, not only (as the Romans) in war, but (even from their childhood) in hunting for their food: using their bowes

Archerie.

The Ar-  
menian  
mountains.

bows perpetually on horseback, whether they follow the wars, or pursue wild beastes. This plot of *Alexander*, though it were plausible, proved not fortunate: for the army that marcht thorow *Armenia*, having with great difficulty climbed over the extreme steep and craggy Mountaines of that Region (which they did the better, in regard it was Summer) entered *Media*, where they burnt many Villages, & got much pillage. Which the Persian King understanding, hastened against them with all his power. But they could not impeach the Romans, by reason of the hilliness and roughness of the countrie, which was more firm and passable for footmen: but a maine hindrance to the Barbarian horse. Then came other news to the king that another Army of the Romans had entered the Parthian dominions East-

Eastward, and wasted the Country. Fearing therefore, lest having soone conquered the Parthians, they should invade Persia, he left as many troopes as (he thought) were sufficient to defend *Media*, and posts with a puissant host to the East parts. The Roman Army when they saw none come against them, began to bee more negligent in their march; supposing that *Alexander* had with the third part of the Army (which was the strongest) invaded the Barbarians in the middle. Resting therefore & reposing themselves, they supposed there needed no hast; as not doubting, but that all the Army did come on, according to the first determination; to which purpose a place was assigned as a rendezvous for themselves, the prey & prisoners which they should take. But *Alexander* disappointed them: for he

The Ro-  
mans de-  
feated.

he neither went himself, nor sent the Army: whether for feare of losing his life in defending the Empire, or whether his mother out of a feminine feare and fondnes detained him, is uncertaine. Vndoubtedly shee did much abate his noble courage, perswading him rather to expose others to danger, than himselfe to the fortune of war. By which means, the Roman army that had entred the Barbarians Countrey, was meerely betrayed. For the Persian king leading all his forces against them ere they were aware, and taking them as it were in a net, gave them an absolute defeat: for being few, they could not withstand so many: but guarding as well as they could the open parts of their bodies (with their Armes) against the shot of the arrowes, they supposed they acquitted themselves well, if making

king no resistance, they escaped safe. But having for some space defended themselves by joyning their targets together, as with a wall, & being like a city assaulted on every side, & grievously wounded, at last, after a long and brave resistance, they were every man slaine. The losse of which great Army (which might well bee compared to any of the Ancient, for valour or fidelity) was a mighty and unspeakable calamity to the Romans. But the Persian puffed up with so good successe, bare his Crest aloft, and aspir'd to higher matters. Which when *Alexander* heard, being then very sick (either for grieve of mind, or unwholsomenesse of the aire) he tooke it exceeding heavilie: and all the Army was grievously offended with the Emperour: in that by disappointing his men, he had so foully betrayed them. But

*Alex.*

*Alexander* not able to endure his sickness, nor that hot climate which afflicted all the army, and especially the Illyrians (who having been used to a cold and moist ayre, fed more plentifully than the rest) purposed to dis-  
 march to *Antioch*, and send forth these few souldiers that remained of that that perished (amongst the Mountain) by extremity of the Winter season. The companies that *Alexander* had with him, he brought back to *Antioch*: having lost many of them also: to his infinit dishonour, & his souldiers discontentment: Fortune failing him every where. For the most part of his threefold army (for so he divided it) perished diversly, either by sickness, sword, or cold.

*Alexander*  
 retires to  
*Antioch*.

*Alexander* being come to *Antioch*, and having soon recovered his health by the change of aire  
 (*Mesopo-*

(*Mesopotamia* being extreme hot, but *Antioch* much cooler, & well watered with dainty fountains) he refreshed his army & revived their drooping spirits with great store of Coine (for that he held to be the onely preservative to assure the souldiers love.) Here he raised new Forces, as if he meant to leade another Army against the Persians, if they were further troublesome, & desisted not from their enterprises. But he received intelligence, that the Persian king had dismissed all his Souldiers to their owne homes. And though the Barbarians seemed to have got the upper hand, yet were they exceedingly wasted with those frequent skirmishes & battels in *Media* & *Persia*. & they which survived (for the most part) grievously wounded and much weakned. For the Romans which sold their lives full dearly, and flew not

*pillulae* are  
 the best  
 physike for  
 Souldiers.

not a few of their Enemies, tho they were but a handful in comparison of them: insomuch that there were almost as many slain of the Barbarians as of the Romans, who were not inferior to them in valour, but number. And this was a certaine signe of the Barbarians great losse, that they took not armes, nor offered to stir for 3 or 4 yeares after.

Alexander thus advertised, during his abode at *Antioch*, and being disburdened of the irksome care of War, he was much more free and frolicke, and gave himselfe to the City-pastimes and pleasures. And now while he was confident that the *Persians* would bee quiet, or at least, that they would not (in hast) re-assemble their Forces, which are rather a confused multitude, then a well-ordered Army (for they have no other provision, thē what every man

man brings from home for present use; and are also very loath to leave their wives, children & possessions) there came posts with letters from the Procurators of *Illyria*, w<sup>ch</sup> troubled Alexander & perplext him more thē ever: for they certified him, *That the Germanes having past the Rhine, and Iſther, had invaded the Roman Frontiers, assaulted the Armies upon the Banks, & made great havock in the Cities and Villages: to the great hazard of the Illyrian Regions adjacent, and abutting on Italy: that his Presence therefore was mainly necessary, together with the whole Army.*

The Germanes rebell.

This newes amazed Alexander, and grieved the *Illyrians*, being twice miserable; by their late discomfiture in the *Persian* expedition, and the slaughter of their counteymen by the *German* incursions. They were therefore exceedingly enraged at th

Q

perour

peror for betraying the affaires of the East by his feare or negligence, & for delaying to succour the North, being so earnestly called upon. And now *Alexander* and his Counsell began to misdoubt *Italy*: which was in greater danger of the *Germanes* then the *Persians*. For the remote Nations of the Levant, so far disjoyned by Sea and Land, scarce heare of the name of *Italy*: but the *Ilyrian* Dominions being of small extent, and consisting but of a few Provinces, are the only bar betwixt *Italy* and *Germany*. Being compelled therefore by necessity, hee much against his will proclaimes his Expedition: and leaving as many Companies as he thought sufficient to guard the Roman frontiers (having well manned & fortified the Camps, Sconces, & other præsidary places) hee hastens with the rest of the

the Army against the Germans. Having ended his Journey with great speed, he incamped on the bankes of the *Rhine*, and there made provision for the German War. He made a bridge of ships and barges for the more easie passage of his Army over the river: *Rhenus* and *Ischer* being the greatest rivers of the North: the one running through *Germany*, the other through *Pannonie*. In summer they are navigable, by reason of their deep & broad channels: but in winter they are so frozen, that they are ridden over, as if they were Plaines: the Ice being so firm and thick, that it bears not only horse and man, but they also which want water, bring not with them Pitchers or other vessels, but axes and hatchets, wherewith they hew out water, and carry it thence like stones. *Alexander* had in his Army

Moors generally  
nimble-  
footed.  
Archers.

Embassa-  
dors.

my divers Regiments of Moors, and a goodly band of Archers, which hee brought out of the East; some from the Osroenes Country; others, that were Parthian Fugitives, or Sripendaries, which he sent against the Germans, who were much infested by them: for the Moors cast their darts at a great distance, and are very deft and nimble in running to and fro: and the archers standing as farre off, easily hit the naked heads and vast bodies of the Germanes; being faire marks to shoot at. Sometimes also they came to hand-strokes; wherein the *Germanes* were (oft) not inferior to the Romans. While these things were on foot, *Alexander* sent embassadours to them to treat of peace, and to assure them that they should want nothing that they needed, & that they should be well turnisht with mony. For the

the Germans are soonest perswaded with that, being very greedy of *Orbels*, and ever ready to chaffer peace with the Romanes for gold. *Alexander* therefore assayed rather to buy a league, than to hazard himself in the war. But his Souldiers were much discontented, that they spent their time vainly, and were not led to some brave Service or gallant Enterprize. *Alexander* (as they said) caring more to follow his Charretting and Revelling, than to pursue or punish the presumptuous Germanes (as concerned him.) Now there was in the army one *Maximine*, borne in an obscure Village of the innermost part of *Thrace*, a Semi barbarian; and which in his younger age had beene bred a Shepherd; after, being at mans estate, hee was for his bulk and strength appointed to serve in the warres among a

*Maximian* described

troope of horse; soone after, Fortune leading him by the hand, he passed through all Military preferments, to the command of Armies and Provinces. Thus *Maximine*, was for his singular skil in the exercise of arms, made Captain by *Alexander*, over all the yong souldiers; to the end to traine and make them fit for Service. Who performing his taske with care and diligence was very gracious with all the army. For he did not only teach them what they should doe, but himselfe did by his owne example, daily instruct them: whereby they became not onely his Schollers, but also \*zealous imitators of his valour, being obliged to him by Donatures, and all manner of honors. These young Souldiers (whereof many were Pannonians) applauded *Maximine* for his prowesse; but scorned

ned *Alexander*, as being still Ward to his mother, & wholly subject to the authoritie and will of a woman, which made him so slowly and unmanly to prosecute the warres: whereby the orientall expedition miscarried: and nothing (in effect) was done against the Germans. And now being naturally prone to Innovation, and wearied with the long raigne of the Prince, which was but little beneficiall to them (there being no competitors for the Empire) hoping also that if some other were made Emperour (beyond his expectation) it would be more for their profit and preferment, they resolved to kill *Alexander* and elect *Maximine* Emperour, who was their comrado and fellow in Armes, and for his Martiall skill and valour fittest for the present warre. Assembling therefore into the



*Maximine*  
elected Em-  
perour.

field in Armes, when *Maximine* came (as his manner was) to train them, they invest him with Purple, and salute him Emperour, which whether it were so com-  
plotted, or hee were ignorant of their intentions, it is uncertaine. At first he refused and threw away the Purple. But when the Souldiers brandisht their Cymiters, threatening to kill him if he yielded not, he chose rather to avoid the present then future perill, and accepted the Honour; which (hee said) had beene oft foretold him by Oracles and dreames: protesting withal to the Souldiers, that it was much against his will, yet he would submit to their importunity: & seeing they would needs have it so, he wisht them instantly to take armes, & before the rumor were blazed, to surprize *Alexander* that knew nothing of it, that his souldiers

diers and guard being astonisht with the newes, might either be drawne to their party, or being taken unprovided, compelled to yield. Then cheering all the Army, with promising them a double portion of Corne, extraordinary Donatives, and remission of all punishments and penalties, he leads the straight towards *Alexanders* Pavillion, not far thence; who, when hee heard of it, was mightily amazed, & leapt forth of his royal tent like a mad man; weeping and trembling, and accusing *Maximine* as perfidious and ungratefull for all the honours he had done him; and the yong souldiers as perjur'd & disloyall for conspiring with him. Lastly, he promised to give what they would have, and amend whatsoever was amisse.

The Souldiers that were with him, comforting him for the pre-

less, said they would stand for him to the uttermost. When the night was past, and it was now day, newes comming that *Maximine* was at hand, that a great dust was seene, and a huge multitude heard not far off, *Alexander* went again into the Plaine, & assembling the souldiers, besought them to protect and defend him that was bred up by them, & had reigned 14 yeares without harming any: whereat, all commiserating him, he commanded them to take armes & charge the enemy. But the Souldiers, though they gave him good words, yet slip away one after another, and would not fight. Some wisht the Prætorian Præfect and *Alexanders* Courtiers might bee executed, imputing the mutiny to the. Others laid all the blame on his mother, which by her insatiable avarice and base niggardice (in

scanting

scanting the souldiers) had made *Alexander* odious. Thus for some while they parlied and argued, but marched not. When *Maximines* army came in sight, & began to perswade them to leave that wretched woman, and puny Prince, that was still under his mothers wing; and adhere to a valiant Souldier and brave commander, that was their own companion in armes, and an excellent Master in the Art Military, they all presently revolted from *Alexander*, and with one voice proclaimed *Maximine* Emperour. *Alexander* in great feare and distraction returnes to his Pavillion, where hanging on his mother & (as they say) bemoaning his infortune, which happened by her meanes; he expected his deathsmans. *Maximine* being saluted *Augustus* by all the army, commanded the Knight Marshalls and

Extreme calamities confound the spirit.

of the me some

*Alexander  
flaine.*

*\* ἀνεύθυνος  
καὶ ἀναμωλός*

some Centurions, to put *Alexander* and his mother to death, and all that resisted. Whereupon they rusht into his Tent and slew him with his Mother, friends, and counsellors: except them that a little before escaped by flight or concealment: which yet soon after were all apprehended and slaughtered by *Maximine*. This end had *Alexander* and his Mother, having raigned 14 yeares without \* blame or bloud. For he abhorred murther and cruelty, and was so mild and temperate, that he suffered none to dy, but those that were condemned by Law: and had not his miserable Mother blasted his Honour by her sordid demeanour, there had beene nothing wanting to have rendred him a most excellent Prince.

*The End of the Sixth Booke.*



## HERODIAN HIS IMPERIALL HISTORIE.

*The seventh Booke.*

The Contents.

**M**agnus. *Quartinus made Emperor against his will. Macedon a base Traytor. Germans good swimmers and souldiers. A terrible battel in a Pools, betwixt Romanes and Germanes. Informers and Catch-poles somented by Maximine. His Covetousnesse, Cruelty, and Sacriledge. The Romanes Devotion. Atricke revolts. A Speech to Gordian; elected Emperour. Vitalian flaine. Insurrection at Rome. Sabinus flaine. Maximines Flies and Spies. His Speech to the Army. His Expedition to Italy. Capellian defeats the Carthaginians. Prince Gordian elected and flaine. The Emperour*

peror Gordian strangles himself. The Romans solemn Parliament in Ioves Temple. Maximus and Albinus elected Emperors by the Senate, and rejected by the Commons. The Commons deluded. Gordian Cæsar. Souldiers slaine. A Commotion at Rome. Fencers slain. A Conncel of war. A general pardon. A Stratagem. Rome fired.



WE have shewed in the former Book, how Alexander demeaned himselfe in his 14 yeares raigne, and how he died. Maximine having attained the Soveraignty, there followed a strange alteration. For he carried himself in such rough & terrible sort, that the Empire was now fallen frō a faire calme rule, to a stormy blustering Tyranny. Knowing now he should be generally prejudged, because he was the first that was raised frō the lowest step, to the highest State; and being also a Barbarous caitife and villaine of birth,  
and

and by education, custome, and condition, given to bloud; his chiefe care was to settle himself in the Empire by crueltie: supposing hee should bee (otherwise) contemptible to the Roman Senat and subjects, who would not so much consider his present fortune, as the basenes of his parentage: for all men knew that (first) he was a Shepherd in the Mountaines of *Thrace*: and that after, being (for his vastnesse & activity) prest for a soldier amōg his poore countreimen, he was led by the hand (as it were) of Fortune, to the Roman Empire: wherefore he instantly\* discom-<sup>\* ἀπεσχευ, ἀσχευ.</sup> posed all *Alexanders* councillours & assistants that were chosen by the Senat; sending some of them to *Rome*; and depriving others of their offices, upon pretence of misgovernment. Which he purposely did, that being rid of all  
which

which were his betters (in birth) he might the more freely & uncontrollably practise (in his Army, as in a strong Arcenal) all kind of Tyranny, without regard to any. Hee banisht also from the court, all *Alexanders* servants, that had so many yeares waited, and put many of them to death upon misprision of Treason, because they mourned for their old master. But that which set a keene edge upon his Tyranny, was an information, that many Captaines and all the Roman Senate conspired against him.

*Magnus.*

There was one *Magnus*, a very noble Gentleman, that had been Consul; who was accused to the Emperor that he raised a faction against him, and dealt with the Souldiers to make himselfe Emperor. The Plot was said to be this: *Maximin* had built a bridge over the River to go against the Ger-

Germans; for as soon as he came to the Sovereignty, he presently applyed himselfe to the warres. For being elected to the Empire for his huge bulke, approved valour, & skill in military affaires, he intended by deeds of Armes to confirme the Soldiers in their good opinion, and to make the world know, that *Alexanders* feare, & \*retardation of the war, \* μέλλησιν. was justly to bee condemned. Wherefore he spared no pains to muster and traine the Souldiers, and being still in armes himselfe, he mightily encouraged the Army. Having made the bridge, he purposed to passe into *Germany*. But *Magnus* was reported to have perswaded many of the best soldiers (who had the charge of guarding the bridge) that as soon as *Maximine* were passed over, they should cut it down; and so (preventing his returne) betray him

him to the Barbarians. For so deep & broad was the river, that it was impossible hee should retreat (there being no ships on the other side.)

This was the rumor, but whether true, or feigned by *Maximin*, is uncertain; for it is hard to determine any thing therein; all that were suspected, being suddenly apprehended, and cruelly slain, without Iudiciall Processe or Pleading. But now the *Osfroene* Archers began to revolt. For being much griev'd at *Alexanders* murther, & meeting (by chance) with *Quartinus* one of *Alexanders* friends (dismiss'd but a little before by *Maximine*) they layd hold on him, and utterly against his will made him their Chiefe, and honouring him with the fatall Ornaments of Purple, and Fire carried before him, they proclaimed him Emperor, that neither knew of

of it before, nor thought of it: howbeit, soone after sleeping in his Tent, he was suddenly slain by one that had beene his companion, and (as some say) his affied friend: whose name was *Ma-Macedon*. *Macedon*, the Captain of the *Osfroens*, and the first mover of their revolt frō *Maximin*. And though hee had no cause nor quarrell at all against him; yet he slew him, whom himself had compelled to take upō him the Empire. Then, thinking he should be wondrous welcom to *Maximine*, he brought him *Quartinus* head for a Present. *Maximine* being glad to see it, and rejoycing that his enemy was so easily made away; whereas the Actour expected great thanks and preferment; hee put him to a most cruell death; as a Ringleader of Rebellion, a murderer of him that hee had perswaded (against his will) to that enterpize;

enterprize; and a Traitor to his dearest friend. These & the like occasions whetted *Maximine* to all immanity, that (of himselfe) was exceeding bloudy. He had a horrible ugly countenance, and such a Cyclopicall Bulk, that no Greek nor Barbarian Champion was comparable to him. Having thus ordered his affaires, he leads all his army with great courage over the Bridge, and makes war upon the Germans. A wondrous multitude of people followed him; almost all the Roman forces, the Moresco darters, and many Bands of Archers of the Osroens and Armenians: (whercof, the first are Vassalls to the Romans; the latter their Allies and Confederates) as also the mercenary and fugitive Parthians, and the Captives of that nation that served the Romanes in the war. Which confused Masse, having

having been first raked together by *Alexander*, was after augmented & well trained by *Maximine*. These Darters and Archers are very serviceable against the Germans, because they nimbly fall forth upon the enemy (ere they are aware) and easily retreat *into the Grosse of the army*. *Maximin* being entred the enemies country, & finding none to resist him (for all the Barbarians were fled) spoiled all the country, (the corn being now ready to reape) leaving all the villages to be burnt & pillaged by the souldiers. Their cities & buildings are very apt to take fire, for the Germans rarely use to build with stone or brick, their houses being like sheds made of bords & timber fastned together. *Maximin* progressing in this sort, burning all the fields, & giving al the cattell to the Souldiers, could yet find no enemies.

For

Woods &  
Bogs.

The Ger-  
mans good  
swimmers.

For they had left all the Cham-  
paigne and plaine Country, and  
betaken themselves to the woods  
and bogs, where they skulked &  
watched their advantage to make  
an irruption upon the enemy: as  
knowing that the trees w<sup>ch</sup> grew  
so thicke would hinder the ene-  
mies Darts & Arrowes; and the  
depth of the bogs would be dan-  
gerous for the *Romans* that knew  
thē not: but easie & accessible to  
them that wel knew where they  
were passable, running daily thro-  
row them, up to the knees. The  
Germanes also are very skilfull  
swimmers, using to wash only in  
Rivers. In these difficult places  
beganne the battell, the Roman  
Emperor himselfe most bravely  
giving the onset. For being come  
to a mighty great Meare or Ma-  
rish, whither the Germanes had  
fled, the Romans fearing to fol-  
low them; *Maximin* was the first  
that

A terrible  
battell in a  
Poole.

that entred with his horse: where  
plunging above the horse-belly,  
he made a great slaughter of the  
Barbarians that very stoutly re-  
sisted. Whereat the Soldiers be-  
ing abash't lest they should seeme  
to betray their Emperour, leapt  
boldly into the Meare, where ma-  
ny on both sides were slain (but  
the Barbarians were almost cut off)  
the *Romane* prince most valiantly  
fighting in person: insomuch that  
the poole being fild up with car-  
casses, and the fennes all purpled  
with bloud, it represented a gast-  
ly & hideous sight of a sea-fight  
(as it were) on land. This battel  
and his other Martiall acts, the  
Emperour did not onely certify  
by Letters to the Roman Senate  
and People, but cōmanded also  
the Portrait of them (at large) to  
be publikly set before the Coun-  
cel-house, that the *Romans* might  
not onely heare, but behold also  
his



his brave Exploits. Which Table (with his other honours) was afterward taken downe by the Senat. Other skirmishes there were, in all which, hee fought in the head of his troopes, and with his own hands hewed out his honour. Winter approaching, he retreated (with many prisoners, and mighty booties) into *Pannonia*. Where, in *Sirmium* (the greatest City of that Countrey) he lay in Garrison, preparing for a *Spring War*; and often saying (which he seemed to intend) that he would exterminate and subdue all the Barbarous nations of *Germany* to the very Ocean. Such a famous Warriour hee was! And surely great Glory he had got, had hee not beene more bloody and cruell to his owne subjects than to the enemies. For what thanks to kill Barbarians, if far more were murthered in *Rome* it selfe.